IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

Volume 95, No. 2 Spring 2014 www.irises.org

LET IT BE ME
BAUMUNK 2014
(Lotus Land X Queen of Angels)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
BAUMUNK 2014
(Introspection X Sunnyside Delight)

JUDY'S SMILE
SKAGGS 2014
(Starring x Kitty Kay) X 5118: (Happenstance x Alice Goodman)

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GOLDEN SNITCH
SKAGGS 2014
(Opposing Forces x Trade Secret) X 7 211: (Irish Gold x Opposing Forces)

HELEN'S MELODY*
STOUT 2014
(Stop Flirting X Stout sdlg. U29 (Unknown))*name pending

LET'S MISBEHAVE
BAUMUNK 2014
((High Priestess x Elizabethan Age) X (County Of Kent x Decadence))

DALLAS ALICE (SDB)
BAUMUNK '14'
(Breeding on-line)

TREY* (SDB)
STOUT '14'
(Happy Jack x Canadian Kisses) *name pending

FRENCH TWIST (SPECIES-X)
BAUMUNK '14'
((Orinoco Flow x Thisbe) X L. Markham aphylla seedling 96-60A)

WINE DARK SEA (SPECIES-X)
BAUMUNK '14'
(I. reichenbachii X I. aphylla)

LITTLE SURFER GIRL (SDB)
BAUMUNK '14'
(Bluebeard's Ghost X Some Sunny Day)

HOLA (SDB)
TASQUIER '13 '
Circus Clown X Chemistry

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Honorable Mention, 2013 Photo Contest

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'Loreley' (Goos & Koenenmann, 1909) Photo by Bluebird Iris Gardens. This historic iris is named for the siren of the Rhine who lured sailors to their death with her enchanting song. If you like this iris, you might be interested in joining a new section, Novelty Iris Society. (see page 17)

On the Back Cover

Jean's Garden by Stan Sass, Fremont, Nebraska
Honorable Mention, 2013 Photo Contest

AIS President's Patch

JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

It should have been no surprise when the groundhog allegedly saw his shadow (one wag said he was shadow boxing) on February 2 and folklore thus said we were in for another six weeks of winter weather. Throughout much of the country, this has been a "normal" winter with very cold temperatures, ice and snow. It's been the coldest here in ten years with subzero temperatures and almost continuous snow cover from December 27, 2013 to February 1, 2014 with more on the way. It should bode well for intense colors in our iris bloom season this spring. The Super Bowl fascination of a large part of the U.S. reduced my incoming e-mails to less than thirty per day (only seven!) for the first time since I became AIS president. That was a nice holiday for me. The day after the game it jumped back to twenty-seven.

One of my friends wrote me that spring is just around the corner … but where is that doggone corner? It will be here by the time you read this, and probably our west coast friends affected by the long drought will have seen reduced cultivar growth and bloom–perhaps the earliest on record as some crocus and daffodils were in bloom in early February.

Many of us will return to Dallas for the "Deja Vu" iris convention in early April. Three-year clumps should be quite a sight if the weather cooperates for a week's earlier visit because of the complete hotel bookings for the Dallas Cup soccer event. It seems that this is the oldest international youth tournament in the world with teams from over one hundred countries entered. David Beckham played in the event here in his youth.

The iris catalogs started arriving in January and I drooled over the incredible introductions of our famous hybridizers. I lost sleep looking at hybridizer web sites as well. I started my "want" lists, placed early orders, and will supplement them after seeing iris shows, Missouri Botanical Garden plantings, and the displays in Dallas. Every year I threaten to cut back–Keith Keppel said the same thing, yet he has a catalog again instead of just a list–but it is hard to do. The incremental leap in iris cultivar beauty in the past ten years is overwhelming. You do have to grow the irises yourself to see how hardy they are and whether they will perform in your garden.

When I teach judges' training, I always say not to be fooled by just the pretty face, also check out the frame. That is a major reason for our garden judging–to see and evaluate the irises in the garden.

I thank editor Kathleen Sonntag for publishing her first issue on time. I received it January 29! ⚜

Think spring!

Photo of Jim taken at Villa de Castella, Italy by Jean Morris

'Sparkling_Cider' (Anna & David Cadd, R. 2002)

Photo by Susanne Holland Spicker Nother, Ogden, UT

Runner Up in the 2013 photo contest

Editor's Message

Is it spring where you are? In Dallas, some of the iris were blooming in time for the April Convention. It was a pleasure to finally meet so many AIS members, many of whom have been my correspondents for several months. Now I have faces to go with the names. Thank you all for a warm welcome to the AIS.

You may notice that the current issue is dated Spring 2014 rather than referencing a month. Since IRISES is a quarterly publication and some of the content is seasonal, this seems a logical choice. You can expect each issue to arrive at the end of the first month of each quarter.

This spring issue has a little news from the April Convention. There is a plan to create the first new section in twenty-five years. Bonnie Nichols tells you about The Novelty Iris Society. Also, two irisarians share information about hybridizing iris. I have included some information about the Historic Iris Preservation Society's (HIPS) data bank project and another article by Charlie Carver about preserving the smaller iris varieties. Photographers will find everthing you need to know about the 2014 AIS photography contest. Ken Walker shares some tips for photographing iris. The Virtual Iris Show provides another possibility for using your skill behind the lens to showcase your iris cultivating skills. Look for the three requests for irises and please send some if you can. Lots of other good reading about iris gardening awaits you. And, of course, pictures to inspire and (hopefully) delight.

For myself, this has been an exciting spring. I have had some Pacific coast iris plants in my garden for four years or so. They send up some foliage, but no blooms. Why is that I wondered when I live on the Pacific coast and they bloom in the parks and everywhere else? So, I asked an expert. Last October I met Joe Ghio at the Region 14 meeting. Joe said, "Dig them up. Now. Put them in water until you see strong white roots. Then plant them and feed them a balanced fertilizer once a month." Since I do not trust much to grow in my clay soil and I wasn't sure where the plants would be happy (definitely not where they had been!), I put them in pots. One plant bloomed this year–proof below. Four blooms! It is amazing how much joy they provided. The other plants are still deciding whether they are happy in their new location. Thanks for the help, Joe.

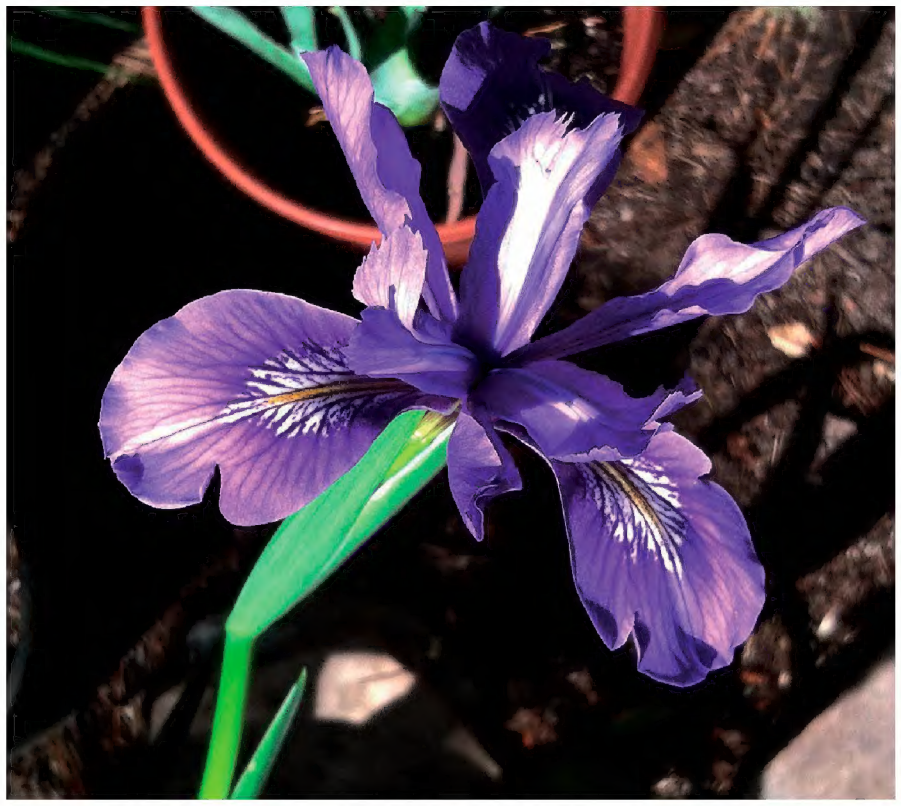
Look for all the April AIS convention reports and more in the Summer issue of *IRISES*. If you have iris experience and knowledge to share, consider submitting an article. If there is something you would like to read about, let me know.

Kathleen Sonntag
Editor

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. ~ Gertrude Jekyll

The iris (yuånwéi) is an important and popular Chinese flower.

In Chinese culture, irises are given to repel evil spirits, especially on lunar May 5 when irises are hung over doors. Eating irises is said to prolong one's life.



I. Douglasiana, photo by Kathleen Sonntag

Virtual Iris Show Deadline Update

BY ROBERT PRIES

Entries can be photographed from January until the end of July and submitted anytime during that period. I will begin assembling entries as they come in. On August 1, when all the entries are in, I'll finish assembly and the show will be open for judging. The winners will be announced between August and September. The winners will be "exhibited" in the October/November edition of *IRISES.*

Visit the image galleries on the Iris Encyclopedia for all the latest information about the show.

If you would like to participate, please e-mail me and we will work out the best way for you to send your entries. ⚜ <robertpries@embarqmail.com.>

Ed. Note: January/February 2014 IRISES, page 12, has Bob's article abot the Virtual Iris Show.

Changes to the Image Coordinator Request for Photos

BY JANET SMITH, CALIFORNIA

In 2012 the position of Image Coordinator was created to obtain photos from the hybridizers who register their new introductions with the Registrar/ Recorder. This way the AIS has an accurate identification of the named iris. The photos are shared with the AIS Library, the Iris Encyclopedia, the AIS Digital Programs and AIS members request them. The photographer always retains copyright and only gives permission for the AIS to use the photos.

This year there is a change. Hybridizers may send only a single close-up photo and if/when it is available, a clump and garden photo. This makes submission easier since most hybridizers don't have time to take all three photos and submit them.

If you have not done so, kindly send me your latest introductions and those from the last few years at <AISImage@irises.org> or mail a CD to the address below. Please call if you have any questions. ⚜

Janet Smith
AIS Image/Photo Coordinator
P O Box 1585
Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585
559-683-0447

Your Chance to Speak Out

BY JODY NOLIN

A couple years ago, we conducted a survey of all the affiliates. The response we got was great. We learned a lot about our clubs' strengths and needs. This valuable information helped guide the policy decisions of the Board of Directors.

This year we are doing another survey with a wider audience. We would like to know if your club's needs and strengths have changed, if your club has used some AIS provided features, if you have access to the AIS electronic services, and what the AIS can do for your club. There are also opportunities to share your opinions.

The survey is completely anonymous, but we would like to know your region and affiliate. Type the link into your browser to access the survey.

http://bit.ly/1kHdMn5

There are only a few questions, so it won't take long (five minutes - longer if you have a lot of ideas to share). This is your chance to guide the future of the AIS.

Wanted: Historical Information

Some of the most interesting information I've seen from the affiliate presidents has been the history of their clubs. Does your club have an official historian? Do you have an interesting account of your club's beginning or an historical event to share? Please send your stories to me so we can start a regular section in IRISES about our regional societies. <jody.nolin@gmail.com>

Thanks, and have a great spring! ⚜

Ed. note: In 2020 the American Iris Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Let's start collecting stories about the founding of our affiliates and how members of your group have participated in the history of iris culture and the AIS.

Connect with us!

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Join the AIS crowd on Facebook!

editor@irises.org

Visit our website www.irises.org

Don't forget the blog!
http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/

In Memoriam

On behalf of The American Iris Society, we extend our condolences and respects to the families and friends of these deceased iris lovers.

Herman Ulrich	Westminster, CA
Melvin Rogers	Hartford City, IN
Darrell and Rae Tweedy	Dodge City, KS
Jack Moll	Hutchinson KS
Lavon Hollingsworth	Maryville MO
Margaret Soderberg	Spokane WA
Peter Desantis	Reseda CA
Irvin Pocklington	Springfield IL
Lee Schroeder	San Marcos TX
Dr George Rodionenko	St. Petersburg Russia
Rosemarie Rumbaugh	Indianapolis IN
Diane Lukesh	Boise ID

Iris Winogradowii, photo from the SIGNA website
Dr. Rodionenko, who died in April 2014 at the age of 101, was instrumental in preserving this endangered iris that grew only on a hillside in the Caucasus Mountains.

"...the report of my death was an exaggeration." From a letter by Mark Twain. In St. Louis County where I live, a resident filed suit in February against Heartland Bank for declaring her dead, and Equifax for passing it along affecting her credit rating. Kimberly Haman is not dead and would like everyone to know it. Likewise, AIS member Carol Burch of Elora, Tennessee who is now living in her deceased father Jimmy Burch's home in Huntsville, Alabama, is very much alive although her name appeared in the *In Memoriam* listing in the October/November 2013 issue of *IRISES*.

In this issue, Robert Annand, Elaine Hulbert and belatedly, Emma Hobbs. (See page 18.) When members pass away in a nursing home, we sometimes are not informed until much later when an issue of *IRISES* is returned to the membership secretary.

Jim Morris, Obituaries Editor

AIS Insurance

BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go the www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>.

Boutique Vendors Invited

BY ANN BOOTH

The Greater Portland Iris Society is hosting the 2015 National Convention in Portland Oregon on May 18-23. The convention headquarters will be the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach. It will draw visitors from virtually all fifty states as well as various foreign countries. In the past we have had visitors from Canada, Russia, Australia, Japan, England, Germany.

Visitors will be looking for various items to purchase and take back home as gifts or for their own use. The convention will feature a boutique offering vendors the opportunity to display and sell their items. There is no charge for the table and once your table is set up, you need not be present during the convention. We will handle the sales and twenty percent of all sales will be donated to Region 13.

Deadline for applications is September 30, 2014. Please contact me at annbooth_hr@hotmail.com for more information or to request a Boutique Application. I can also be reached at 425-743-3066 (home) or 425-244-1354 (cell).

'San Francisco' (Mohr-Mitchell 1927) photo by MUnser on HIPS website.
This was the first winner of the Dykes Medal in 1927. The consensus in the 1920s was that "this is the best plicata."

Omissions and Errata

Here are the omissions and errors that were brought to my attention. I will continue to strive for all the perfection that is humanly possible. There is almost always something that gets overlooked in the effort to get the file to the printer on time.

Keith Kepple's beautiful iris featured on page 39 ('Haunted Heart' 2010) was new to the Tall Bearded Iris Symposium List in 2013.

Some photo credits were missing. The photo of 'Juan Valdez' on the back cover was taken by Jim Morris. Jean Morris took the photo of Clarence Mahan on page 5 and of AIS President, Jim Morris, that is on page 6 of the previous issue. Jim was kind enough to ask if he missed the credits. It was the editor who forgot to include them.

On page 13 of the January/February 2014 issue, the author's name is incorrect. It should be Jody Nolin, not Judy Nolan. The electronic version is corrected. The error was not found until after *IRISES* was printed. The editor appreciates Jody's sense of humor and gracious attitude about the error.

A sharp-eyed reader noticed that Volume 94, No. 3 should be issue 370 instead of 367. This typo affects Volume 94, No. 4 (issue 371) and the January/February 2014 issue (Volume 95, No.1 issue 371). The Spring 2014 issue (Volume 95, No. 2) is correctly numbered 372.

Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

Every year it is my pleasure to recognize some outstanding youth members of the American Iris Society at the annual AIS National Convention when I announce the winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement and the winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest. Rumor has it this year that at least two youth members will be in attendance at this year's convention! Our host, Region 17, has many active youth members such as Faith Donnell. I met Faith at last year's convention and I noticed that she had won Best in Show in the Youth Division's Exhibitions report in the latest issue of IRISES. It is always fun to meet youth members that I may only have known as a name from their entries in one of our youth contests, and to watch them grow up.

Colin Campbell of Region 4 has been named the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement winner. Unfortunately, he will be unable to attend the National Convention; he will be presented his award at his Regional Spring Meeting. First runner-up is Sarah Green of Region 21. Second runner-up is Faith Winzer of Region 18.

Do you know a young person who would benefit from becoming part of our iris world? Youth membership is only $5. Sponsoring a young person is the best investment you can make! My grandmother got me started growing irises when I was twelve years old... little did she know just what would "grow" from her mentoring! When you help a young person get infected with the "iris virus," you will enjoy hours of pleasure for years to come!

Regions 14 and 18 have been exploding with new youth memberships in the Classroom Iris Program (CIP). Actually, only one of the new groups is a "classroom;" the other groups are an after school program and a troop of American Heritage Girls that were recruited by an older group of American Heritage Girls. These two regions have more than 100 children involved in our youth program. Many of the activities they are working on are part of our new Youth Patch program requirements. One group of AH Girls made centerpieces for the dining room tables of a senior citizen center. The after school program planted a large garden at the school that included irises and other flowers and vegetables. Photos are of the Region 14 youth group and the iris they exhibited last year.

Photos

Top: SRIS youth resting after planting iris in their school garden

Below: flower exhibited by SRIS youth in the 2013 Santa Rosa Iris Society Show ('Ceasar's Brother' Morgan, FC, 1932)

photos by C Leonard

Ed. note: Did you see the article about Colin Campbell, Region 4 youth member and owner of Iris Hills Farm, in the Reblooming Iris Recorder, Spring 2014 *issue? He wrote the winning essay for the Ackerman Award in 2012. Prepare to feel like an underachiever if you read it.*

2014 Photo Contest

The American Iris Society invites you to participate in our annual Photo Contest. This contest is free and open to everyone, with the exception of contest Judges and the contest coordinator who are not eligible to enter. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS January Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed on the AIS web site at www.irises.org**.** The 2014 winner of each category will receive a 2014 introduction (within USA only). The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership, or single e-membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an e-membership or annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up of each category will receive a 2012 or 2013 introduction (within the USA only).

How to Enter:

Fill out the entry form designating in which category you are entering your "digital" photos. **No prints please.** Then e-mail or send a CD of your digital high resolution photos to the AIS Photo Contest Coordinator, at the address indicated. You may submit up to five (5) photos total for this contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2014 Photo Contest is no later than midnight June 30, 2014. *(NOTE: Any photo submitted that was a winner in a previous year will automatically be disqualified.)*

There must be irises in the photo and irises in the photos should be of the genus Iris. Entries will be judged in the following six (6) categories:

1. Irises in a landscaped garden.
2. Irises in a field or home garden.
3. Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location).
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Iris photos- art effects, macro of bloom segments.
6. Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art with the irises.

*** Any photos taken by a youth photographer (under 19) in any of the six (6) categories will be judged separately from the adult entrants.

"High Resolution" digital photos are required (i.e. no smaller than 1600x1000 in size). ***NO PRINTS***. *(If you only have prints take them to a store to have them digitized in "High Resolution" files to a CD and mail said CD.)* E-mailed digital photos should be sent as a "HIGH RESOLUTION" file no smaller than 1600x1000. You must title each image file to match the entry form and category given. Include name of the variety or person in each photo on the entry form and photo file name, if known.

A panel of three judges will judge the photos received and their decisions will be final.

Where to send:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Janet Smith, P O Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585

Digital: ***E-mail photos & entry form to:***

AISPhotoContest@irises.org

Entry Form:

Please designate Category #, photo caption name(s) and name of persons in photos, if any, to match name on file or photo.

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

*** If this is a **youth** entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photograph(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photograph(s) and photograph(s) worthy of honorable mention in publications, in brochures, and calendars, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses. (Forms submitted by email do not require actual signature. By filling in the information in this form including the information below, either fully or partially, and submitting the form by email, you grant the American Iris Society the rights specified in the paragraph above).

☐ Check that you agree with the above statement.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____)_____

Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email.

Send inquiries to **AISPhotoContest@irises.org**

If e-mailing your files, attach your completed form with your entry.

This form may be completed on-line.

Important: When filling out this form online make sure you save it then attach that saved copy to your email. Otherwise, it will arrive as a blank copy.

2013 Photo Contest Runner Up, Effects 'Indian_ Chief' by Darcy Decker, Danville, PA

AIS Membership Campaign

BY ROBERT PRIES AND SUSAN GRIGG, CO-CHAIRS,AIS PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE

2013 Membership Contest Winners Announced

The AIS is growing! At the spring convention in Dallas we awarded 2 new iris introductions to Pat McNeal for bringing in 17 new members. The Fredricksburg Area Iris Society in Region 4 won $100 as the affiliate bringing in the most new members, 27. Region 14 was honored for showing the largest gain in members overall among the regions.

You have an opportunity to win prizes and help the AIS grow. You or your group can win the new member contest this coming year. The contest period is from the convention to the month before the next convention. Submit the list of names of your new members to the Public Relations and Marketing Committee <AISpublicrelationsmktg@irises.org> by April 15, 2015. It is easier than ever to get those new members. You can point out the $25 voucher they will receive when joining. Many clubs throw in extra Irises for new members at their sales. Sales and shows are great opportunities to find new members. Sign them up then and there. You can find out all about this new marketing program on the AIS website www.irises.org in the News Section. For ideas on how to promote irises, AIS, and your local affiliate, you can check out the new *AIS Marketing Handbook*, available from any member of the PR and Marketing Committee. Do you put an information table at your shows and sales to explain the many benefits of AIS membership?

We want to do a good job of keeping members also. We are providing more services to our members, such as the encyclopedia and monthly e-pub, News & Notes. The bulletin, IRISES, is a great value. We hope we can retain the members you bring us, but we need your help. Talk with new members and find out why they came to the AIS. Do they have talents that we could use in the organization, at the affiliate, regional or national level? Involving new members gives them a chance to become invested in our society. If we have more workers, the possibilities of accomplishments to benefit all of us are awesome. If you have ideas for ways the AIS can add value to membership, contact us at PR & Marketing. Together we can make the American Iris Society grow and thrive. ⚜

Bob Pries presents a 2013 Membership contest award to winner Don Rude, President of Region 4. Photo by Riley Probst

2013 Photo Contest Honorable Mention, Effects, 'French Lavender' by Mikey Lango, Santa_Clara, CA

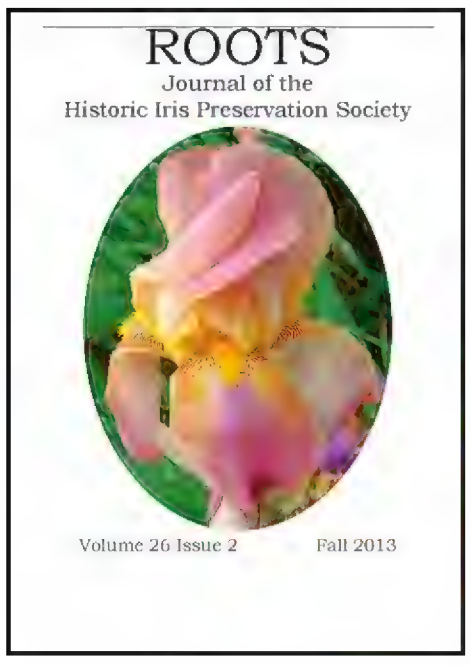
Section Happenings

BY GARY WHITE, AIS SECTION AND COOPERATING SOCIETY LIAISON, NEBRASKA

Symposium ballots (or popularity polls) are appearing with some of the bulletins, journals, and newsletters of various iris societies. It's an opportunity for you to voice your opinion for your favorite varieties in each class of irises. Keep track of those favorites as they bloom, make a few notes and fill out the ballots. The more participants there are, the more meaningful the results will be. And, its fun!

Also of importance are reports from display gardens in several of the section publications. This is an easy way of finding out what performs well in particular areas, what catches the eye of the grower, what survives during weather hardships, and what might just be the perfect iris for that empty spot in your garden. You do have a couple empty spots in your garden don't you? I usually don't, but then that's never stopped me from acquiring more irises every year!

The spring issue of **The Dwarf Iris Society Newsletter** features an article by Charlie Carver of Orcas, Washington, titled "Small Is Beautiful," the second installment of a four-part series. This is a well-written, interesting series, thus far at least. This second part of the series is especially important because Charlie discusses the losses of so many historic cultivars and gives his take and ideas on preservation efforts to perhaps slow the rate of loss, especially among Miniature Dwarf and Median irises. I have a large and expanding collection of historic irises, including several MDBs. After reading this article, I'm even more inspired to seek out more miniature dwarf irises for the collection.



The fall issue of *ROOTS*, the journal of the **Historic Iris Preservation Society,** showcases an in-depth essay by Anner Whitehead about iris hybridizing and iris nurseries in the latter part of the 19th century. The article, "The Emergence Years: George C. Woolson, H. Meyers, and Divers American Bearded Irises, Iris Collectors, and Nurserymen of the Later Nineteenth Century," is an important story that has not been told until now. This issue of *ROOTS* is the 25th anniversary issue and Anner's article is the perfect way to launch the next 25 years of HIPS and its journal.

HIPS has a new webmaster, Christina Woodward from Forks, Arkansas. Christina will be upgrading the website while retaining many of the popular features put in place by Mike Unser. There will also be new features built into the website. HIPS also has a new Honoraries and Awards Chair Paul Gossett from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Paul is the immediate past President of HIPS and one of last year's recipients of the HIPS Distinguished Service Award.

If you read the note above about the article titled "Small Is Beautiful" by Charlie Carver, but you don't receive the *Dwarf Iris Society Newsletter*, don't despair. This same four-part series is running simultaneously in *The Medianite,* **The Median Iris Society** bulletin. Redundant you say? Nope, just covering the appropriate bases. This series is at least as pertinent to the serious enthusiast of Median irises! Now I'm looking forward to Part 3 in the fall, and I will no doubt read it twice, once in each publication….driving home the message. Dave and Debra Miller know how to broaden the impact of a good article.

Another series, in two parts by Tom Waters, explores "The Story of Arilbred Medians." This is really the story behind the story. Though we may be familiar with the simple story that Arilbreds are the result of crosses between Aril irises and the more familiar bearded irises, the full story behind these great irises is much more complicated. Tom does a superb job of telling the story in a timeline manner, starting with Sir Michael Foster at the turn of the last century in Part 1, and coming forward to the present in Part 2, interweaving notes about hybridizers, species, breeding goals, and resultant cultivars. The two parts of this series are useful for both the Arilbred Median novice and the experienced collector or hybridizer. You really have no choice but to more fully appreciate Arilbred Medians after reading this series!

The **Spuria** iris popularity poll results for 2013 were released in the Winter 2013 issue of *Spuria News*. 'Zulu Chief' (Jenkins 1992) topped the list. Also in this issue of *Spuria News* are names, descriptions and photos of the first 2014 Spuria introductions—8 introductions from 7 hybridizers. There are more irises vying for those phantom empty spots in my garden. Looks like more of the lawn will go the way the vegetable garden did several years ago!

"Iris Mecca"
Tall Bearded Iris Society
Spring Meeting
May 22 & 23, 2014

Red Lion Hotel
3301 Market NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-370-7888 or 800-248-6273
www.redlion.com/salem

May 22 TBIS Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
May 23 Bus tour (see below)
May 23 Live Iris Auction - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 23 - The bus tour will visit four iris gardens in the Salem area: Schreiner's, Mid-America, Keith Keppel's, and Kevin Vaughn's.

Registration form is on our website
www.tbisonline.com.

Questions? Contact Judy Nunn
503-931-6872 <Nunnjk@comcast.net>.

Society for Japanese Irises
National Convention

Hosted by
The British Columbia Iris Society
July 4-5, 2014
Chair: Ted Baker
250-6530-4430 <tedebaker41@gmail.com>.

A New Iris Society for Novelty Iris Fans

Bonnie Nichols announced the formation of a the Novelty Iris Society at the April AIS convention in Dallas . Find out about becoming a charter member and more on page 17.

Future Section Conventions

"Iris Mecca"
Tall Bearded iris Society Spring Meeting
Salem, OR - May 22-23, 2014

Society for Louisiana Irises
2015: Lafayette, LA
2016: Shreveport, LA

"Another Day In The Garden"
2015 Siberian/Species Convention
Portland, Oregon - May 24-25, 2015

Spuria Iris Convention 2017
Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society
Los Angeles, California - April/Early May 2017

I. *Henryi photo by Ken Walker*
See Ken's article about photographing irises on page 20.

The AIS Encyclopedia, Still in its Adolescence

BY BOB PRIES, NORTH CAROLINA

The American Iris Society is still challenged to create the resources that today's society expects. Each year those expectations grow and others try to replace the AIS as the prime iris resource. Much of the information out on the web has originated with the AIS without acknowledgement. The AIS has the potential to make even better information available. "Citizen Scientists" could enrich our knowledge base and provide a way for meaningful participation.

Adolescence is that awkward age when we are not really mature but are expected to be. I would say the Encyclopedia has reached that stage. We started by creating pages for the iris cultivars so that people could add pictures. In our haste to get the pages up, they were often not carefully edited or formatted and all of the desirable data was not included. I would liken it to creating a first draft. Topics that did not help identify plants were given less attention than the cultivars' pages. Of course, work still continues on the basic page for each cultivar/species. We do not know the actual number of cultivars! We say those pages are 93 per cent complete. We do not have pages for many superseded names or for some synonyms, and little effort was made to include names with no information attached.

We have created new sections and new webs for understanding irises better: reblooming, novelty, and bulbous. There is a section called Gardens and, of course, The Virtual Iris Show. Because these sections are in their infancy, they have only begun to be developed. It makes me sad that the wiki is seldom complete and polished in even one area and that so many areas are seen in their formative stage; hopefully, this will inspire others to help in the evolution of making it better.

The Encyclopedia today is used primarily to verify an Iris identity. On average 10,000 individuals make 45,000 visits to the wiki each month. A marketing term, hits, is often used to measure website visits. The wiki is averaging 20,000,000 hits each year and that number has been growing.

The mission of the AIS Encyclopedia is not only to create the ultimate iris information archive, but also to celebrate the creativity of its users. Here are some of the goals:

1. Once a cultivar page is adequately populated with images, we would request that hybridizers choose an image that best represents their plant so that image could be featured in a larger size to the right of its description.

2. Links from a hybridizer's name would link to their page with a biography and list of introductions. Links to the parents would allow exploration of the plant's genealogy.

3. Videos of related topics could be added: i.e., "How to Plant a TB Seed" or "How to Divide Spuria Iris."

4. Promotional slide shows, such as "A Tour of the Crested Irises," could be added to elucidate topics.

The AIS Encyclopedia can be an exciting place to create, to learn, and to interact. Thanks to all the wiki workers who have brought the wiki to its adolescence.

Joe Ghio has been hybridizing iris since 1954. That's 60 years! Congratulations Joe.

Joe's 1975 Dykes Medal winning iris 'Mystique'
photo by Janet Lauritzen

The Novelty Iris Society Seeks Charter Members

BY BONNIE J. NICHOLS

clockwise starting above:
'Thornbird' TB (Byers 1988) by MUnser
Dykes Medal 1997
'*I. Pallida* 'Argentea' folliage by MUnser
'Space Lab' TB (DSaxton 1983)
by BlueJ Iris
'Aztec Prince' AB (Tasco 2009)
by Superstition Iris Garden

We would like for you to join us as we charter the

Novelty Iris Society.

More and more hybridizers are introducing iris with unusual forms and color combinations. Are there enough irisarians interested in the "unusual" who would like to form the first new section of the American Iris Society in twenty-five years?

The answer was an overwhelming "YES" at the AIS National Convention in Dallas in April.

As you can image, there is a lot of organizational paperwork to be processed and filed. We would like to accomplish it during this year and request that the AIS board consider making the **Novelty Iris Society** an official section of the AIS at the 2015 convention in Oregon.

If you are interested in becoming a Charter member of this new iris society, we would love to have you join us. We have not set annual dues; however, if you would like to donate to the Novelty Iris Society to help offset organizational expenses, we would be very grateful. You may make your check payable to "The Novelty Iris Society." Please give us your name, address, telephone number and email address (if available). Also, please tell us if you are interested in growing novelty iris (Space Age, Flatties, Variegated Foliage, Broken Color, etc.) and in helping us with future articles and programs. This sectionwill include all varieties of irises.

Space Age

Broken Color

I was very pleased to be appointed as the Acting Chair of the **Novelty Iris Society.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. ⚜

Bonnie J. Nichols
bjnhtn@aol.com

Irises whose flowers have odd forms such as horns, spoons, and flounces

Milestones

BY JIM MORRIS, OBITUARIES EDITOR, MISSOURI

Robert L. Annand
(1924 – 2013)

On December 14, 2013, Robert Annand, 89, of Forest Ranch, California (Region 14) died from a heart attack outside in his garden. Bob was born September 14, 1924 in Santa Cruz, California where he lived on a 1,000 acre ranch. Here he learned to garden, milk cows, ride horses and enjoy nature. Here he also was introduced to irises, and this interest lasted during his entire life.

A U.S. Army Air Corps member in WWII, Bob served in England aboard a B-29 bomber as a spotter. In 1948 he and Irene Bronec of Montana were married after a two year correspondence. They celebrated their 65th anniversary one month prior to his death. Bob and Irene raised three children: Mariann, Novarina, and Tom Annand, Patti Glass and Rob Marshall. They have three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Rob has worked side by side with Bob growing irises and is determined to register the remainder of Bob's introductions posthumously in his honor.

After graduating with a BS in Biological Science from the College of Great Falls, Montana, Bob worked for the Department of Agriculture in California. In 1972, Bob and Irene opened Millwood Gardens Florist Shop in Susanville, California. In 1989 they retired and sold the florist shop to their daughter, Patti, and her husband, who still own the business. Bob was one of the founding members of the Leo T. Clark Iris Society in Chico, California. He and Irene attended over thirty-five AIS national conventions.

Bob Annand hybridized and registered twenty-eight irises, introducing twenty-seven of them. This included seven arilbreds, three SDBs, one IB and one CA with the rest being TBs. His irises won eight HMs, seven AMs and one Mohr Medal. His 2,500 foot high altitude garden in the foothills of the northern Sierra Nevada mountains near the volcanic Mt. Lassen was in an area of Ponderosa pines and majestic redwoods bisected by a small stream. It was abundantly populated by daffodils and PCIs; arilbreds thrived there. Most of his hybridizing success came in that classification with 'Kalifa's Cape', AB (OGB+), AM 2007; 'Kalifa's Fortune', AB (OGB), AM 2006; 'Kalifa's Horn', AB (OGB-), AM 1999, William Mohr Medal 2001; 'Kalifa's Joy', AB (RB+), AM 2010; 'Persian Queen', AB (OGB), AM 2011; and 'Return To Aga', AB (OGB-), AM 2006. One TB attained that status as 'Kona Waves', AM 2009. One that didn't, yet was a smash hit as TB Seedling 89-7C (later named 'Capitol Debut' 2010), was displayed on the Oklahoma State Capitol grounds during the 2007 national convention in Oklahoma City. It was pictured with the state capitol in the background in the July 2007 AIS Bulletin. In 1996, the Annand garden was one of the guest gardens during the Sacramento AIS national convention. Tom Abrego wrote about the garden in the October 1996 AIS Bulletin.

Bob Annand will be missed by many, but never forgotten. R.I.P., my friend, you changed my life in ways I could never express. ⚜

--- Anthony Peruzzi

Emma (Olsen) Hobbs
(1919 – 2011)

My great friend Emma (Olsen) Hobbs, 91, of Noblesville, Indiana in Region 6, was born September 7, 1919 and passed away July 6, 2011. Born and raised in the Chicago area and was proud of her Norwegian heritage. Emma met her husband Bernard (Barney) during WWII and they married after the war. Barney's TV job brought them to Indianapolis where they later bought their home outside Noblesville. Emma had always liked the outdoors and gardening so the ten acres their home sat on gave her plenty of room to garden. In the late 1950s she discovered Schreiner's Iris Gardens and ordered a few fifty-cent iris. When she got her order, she thought surely Schreiner's would go bankrupt because they gave out extras. She ended up buying all the 50-cent iris they had in their catalog.

After discovering several iris groups in Indiana, she became very active in the Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, Master Gardeners and the Indiana Daffodil Society. She was also active in the Dwarf Iris Society of Northern Indiana, having her garden open for tours in the '70s.

Emma hybridized making odd crosses that she knew would be mostly impossible. She once told me that she

let Mother Nature make most selections for her so she didn't have to. She registered eight irises and introduced seven; five SDBs and two ABs, one a regalia hybrid 'Koviar' 1971, HM 1973, and the other an OGB halfbred 'Stol-Bee' 1974, HM 1977. Three of the SDBs: 'Brink O' Pink' 1976, HM 1978; 'Split Decision' 1989 (her last introduction), HM 1992; and, 'Spring Butterfly' 1978, HM 1980 were popular. When Emma had to move to a senior home she still had a few seedlings in the garden.

In 1985 Emma was chairman of the Indianapolis AIS national convention and had her garden on tour. We will always remember the sense of humor displayed by Emma and Barney with the eight foot "iris sculpture" made out of bed pans and painted iris purple. Jayne Ritchie wrote about their garden in the October 1985 AIS Bulletin. This gardener's delight featured species and medians as much as the inevitable TBs. She was elected to the AIS board of directors 1987-1991 and was Exhibition Chairman. (photo from 1987 Bulletin) When Barney passed away in her second term, she resigned because she didn't think she could do the job without his help in taking all the packages to the post office as she did not like to drive.

Emma remained active in the local iris societies and even attended some meetings in Tennessee with friends until she was no longer able to live alone. She is survived by several nieces and a nephew.

--- Lynda Miller

Elaine Perry Hulbert
(1924 – 2013)

My mother, Elaine Perry Hulbert, 88, of Floyd, Virginia in Region 4, was born October 8, 1924 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She passed away July 15, 2013. As a child, she skipped grades three and five and entered Macalester College in St. Paul at age 15. After receiving her masters degree in English from the University of Minnesota, she remained to teach literature to students only slightly younger than she. Elaine recalled that at the end of her first year of teaching, her scholars' parting gift was a pair of bobby socks.

One of her best students was Dan Hulbert, a Navy veteran studying on the GI bill. They married, and Elaine retired from teaching to raise son, Daniel, and daughter Catherine. The family moved to Connecticut in 1962 where Dan Hulbert pursued a career in advertising.

Elaine said she had no interest in growing anything–vegetables, flowers, or herbs–until she was in her forties. When she discovered how well irises bloomed in the otherwise unyielding bog in front of her home, she went…well, what is a flattering way to say bonkers? She taught herself the Latin names for hundreds of wild and cultivated plants and acquired countless books on flowers, including several printed in Chinese and Japanese without a word of English. She once returned from a trip to England with pods snatched from a public garden secreted in her boots. Irises were by no means the only flowers she favored. The tinier they grew, the better. Whenever she walked through a field or forest, she scanned the ground for little jewels.

In 1982, she and Dan retired to Floyd, Virginia, the Blue Ridge area of southwestern Virginia. She was active in SIGNA, serving as president 1984–1988. Her president's columns were entitled Chairman's Message and were a refreshing read. In introducing herself she said, "I'm afraid I dozed through first year botany, and I didn't own a trowel 'til I was thirty. But once acquainted with the genus Iris I became mad for irises and have grown every kind I could get hold of. I am still not much of a gardener. I recognized early on that I was more a collector and student than a grower of beautiful things." She worked to promote species iris in the eastern half of the continent. She saw SIGNA's scanty representation in the east at that time as an immediate challenge. She encouraged members to write for SIGNA stating, "There are two sides to science, the ambition to be right and admission that we will often be wrong." In February 1987 she wrote, "And let us remember that there is no reason why an iris can't be immortal, so long as the chain of its caretakers is never broken." Elaine only registered three irises and introduced two: 'Sakako'(1990, JI) and 'Native Wine' (2003, SPEC virginica).

Elaine's final illness was brief. As an aide helped me adjust her in bed for comfort, she thanked us, speaking her last word, "Beautiful."

P.S. Members can honor her memory by accosting a stranger and saying, "Let me tell you why I love irises!"

--- Kitty (Catherine) Hulbert Pham from the SIGNA Newsletter, Winter 2013.

photo by Dan Hulbert

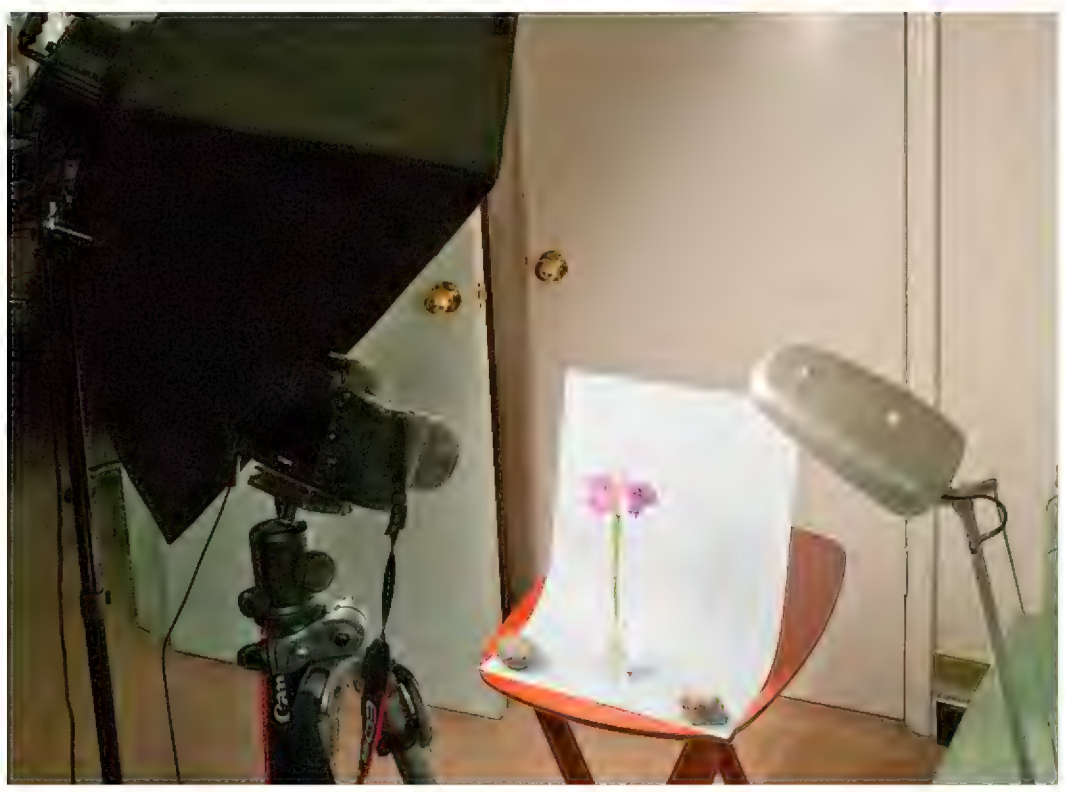
Photographing Iris in Complete Focus

BY KEN WALKER

Ordinary close-up photos of iris and other flowers show part of the bloom in focus and other parts blurred. This can be used for artistic affect; for example, you may want an iris signal or beard to be the main subject of a photograph while the rest of the bloom is downplayed. However, other times it is very nice to have the full flower in focus. Many cameras allow you manually to "stop down" the aperture to increase the picture's depth of field, bringing more of the flower in focus, but that technique is limited by the physics of the lens, particularly for close-up photos.

The technique of focus stacking solves this problem. It lets you combine a series of photos, each taken with a different focus distance. For each area of the picture, a computer program finds the photo with the best focus and pastes the in-focus fragments taken from different photos into a complete in-focus picture. There are a number of software packages that perform focus stacking. I use Helicon Focus to analyze and combine the photos. I also use the companion program, Helicon Remote, to control the camera and automate the picture taking.

It's important that the subject of the picture does not move while the multiple photos are taken, so it is best to bring the iris flower inside. I like to use broad-spectrum daylight-balanced lights. In the following photo, both the studio light on the left and the desk lamp on the right produce this quality of light.



My camera is a Canon 5D Mark III with a 100 mm macro lens attached and a USB cable to my computer. Other combinations of equipment will work. Make sure your camera is set to the right white balance for the lights. If you don't have software to automatically control your camera, you can take the series of photos manually. If you plan to shoot small iris like I. henryi or I. gracilipes, you'll certainly want a macro lens. The flower in this photo is 'Pixie Won' (Jill Copeland, 1997) a Pseudata. (Figure 1)

I make three setting on my equipment:

- The camera's white balance is daylight.
- The camera's mode dial is set to manual so Helicon Remote can control most camera settings.
- The lens' focus switch is set to autofocus so Helicon Remote can control the focus through the camera.

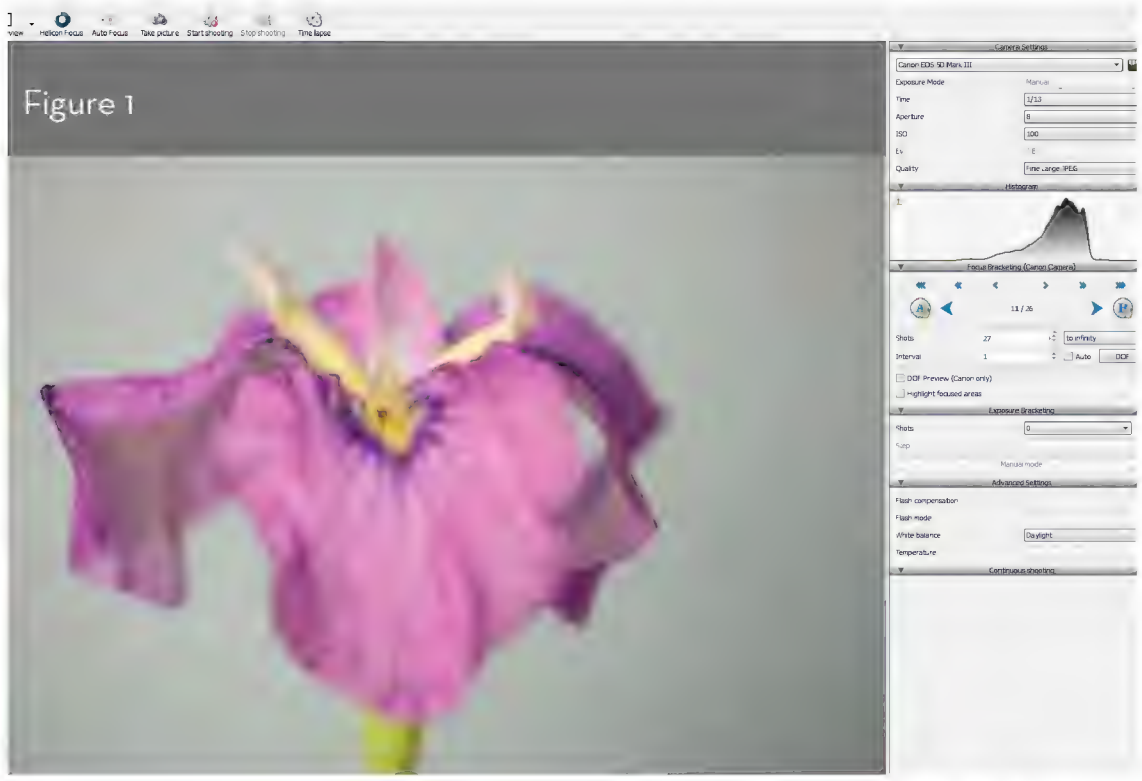
With the camera turned on, the equipment settings established, and the lens cap off, we're ready to use Helicon Remote.

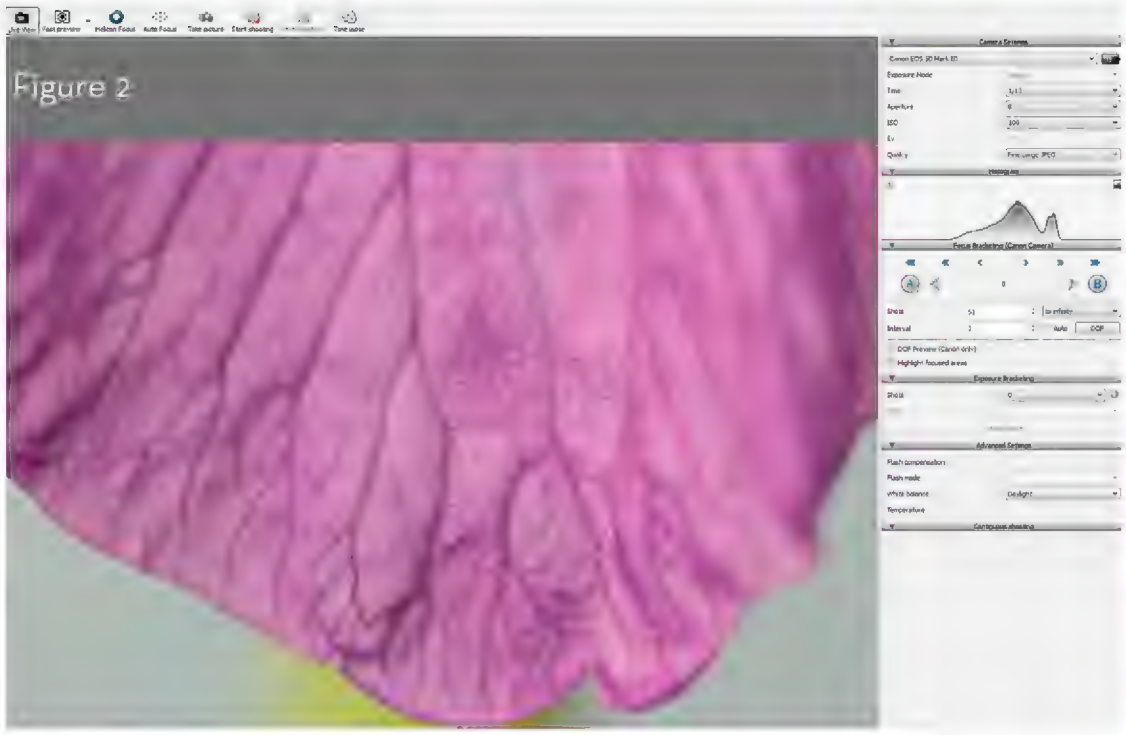
The exposure controls are in the upper right panel. The quality is set to the best JPEG format, and the ISO level is set to the lowest value to produce the cleanest image. Aperture is not too critical, but most lenses produce sharp images at F8, so I use that. I adjust the shutter speed (Time) so the preview image looks nicely exposed, not too dark and not too light. In this case, 1/13 second looks good. (Figure 2)

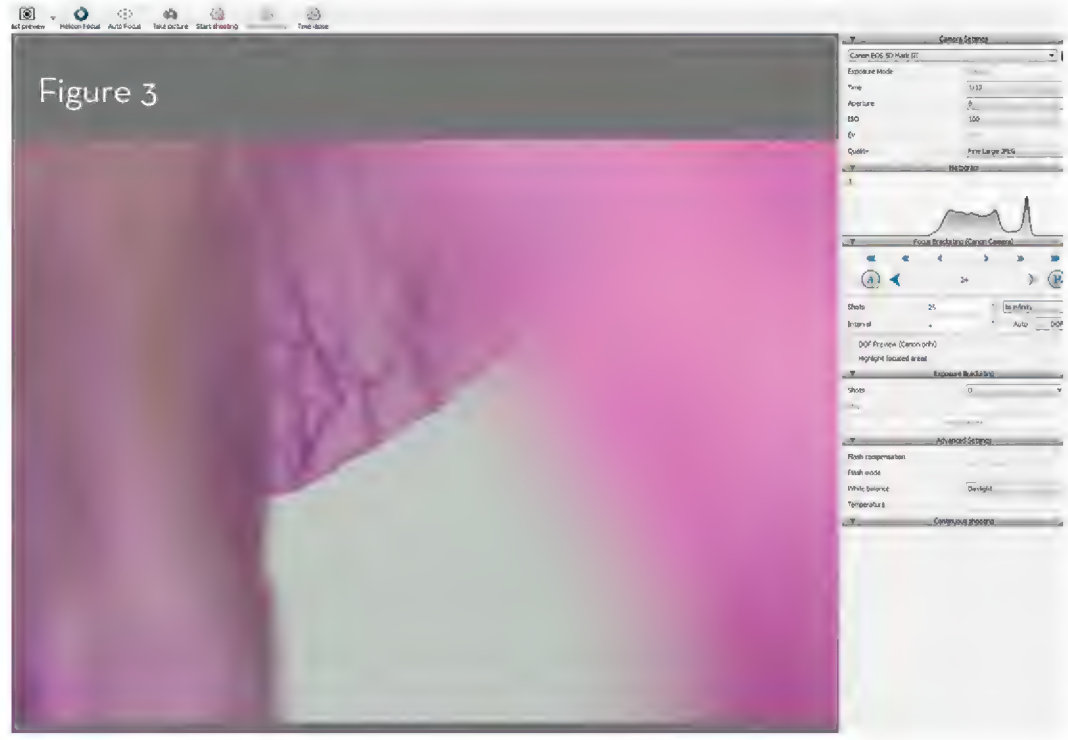
The next step sets the range of focus. These controls are near the center of the right column and look a bit like DVD controls. I zoom the preview to the tip of the front fall using a right-click menu, adjust the focus with the "DVD" controls, and press the "A" button to lock it as the front focus. (Figure 3)

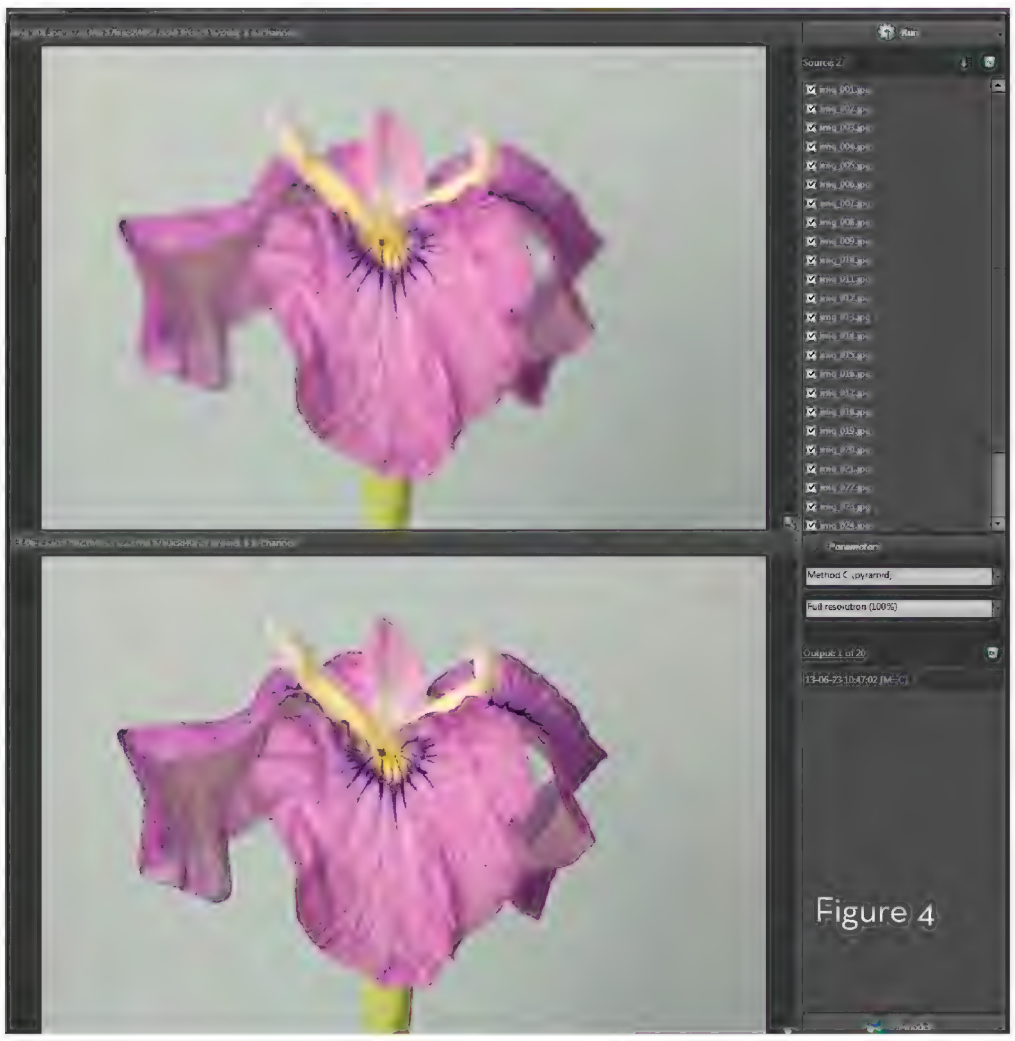
The setup is now complete and Helicon Remote computes that it should take 25 photos between the nearest and farthest focus. I make sure that neither the flower nor the camera is shaking and press the "start shooting" button. When the Helicon Remote is done taking pictures it asks if I want to run Helicon Focus and automatically transfers the photos to it. I check mark all the file names in the source panel on the upper right, and press "Run"; I then find something to do for a few minutes while the program does the hard work.

When it is done, it shows the finished image at the bottom.(Figure 4) I select the auto-generated name in the output panel in the lower right and save the file where I want, under a name that makes sense to me. ⚜









Ken bought his first collection of iris around 1980 and planted them on his parent's farm in Vermont; some are still growing next to his father's home. In 1994 he bought a house with a yard and started filling it with increasingly more "interesting" iris. When he started exploring Aril iris in the late 90's, he found there were not enough photos of cultivars on the internet and decided to work on the problem. In 1999, he bought his first digital camera and started taking iris photos to share. The two hobbies have gone hand-in-hand ever since. Ken regularly posts photos to the iris-species Group on Yahoo. – Rodney Barton, Editor

Reprinted from *SIGNA* the bulletin of the Species Iris Group of America, No. 89, Winter 2013.

All photos by Ken Walker

Upgrade your membership and get a $25.00 voucher!

The Voucher Program is here for any new member of AIS, any new e-member, or for any current member who upgrades their membership as in upgrading from a single membership to a triennial or dual, or an e-member who upgrades to multiple years of e-membership.

Each new or upgraded member will receive a voucher in the mail from Membership Secretary Tom Gormley. Included with the voucher will be a listing of participating nurseries that accept the voucher with an order for irises. The listing will show what value each nursery places on the voucher and the minimum order each nursery requires. The list will also appear on the AIS website www.irises.org.

When you mail your order to one of the participating nurseries, you will include your voucher with the order. If you order online, you will include the number listed on your voucher. Your voucher can only be used once and with one nursery of your choice.

The voucher value does not count toward a minimum purchase amount. Most vendors do not treat this as a discount off the order, but rather will provide you with a plant of their choice at the value listed for the voucher. You will pay the shipping charge on your order as usual.

The voucher does not have an expiration date. If you join AIS or upgrade your membership late in the year, you may use the voucher the next season.

If you have any questions about this program please contact:

Susan Grigg, Public Relations and Marketing Committee <irismom@nc.rr.com> or

Tom Gormley, Membership Secretary <AISMemsec@irises.org>.

LOUISIANA IRIS GARDENS

Quality Louisiana Iris Rhizomes
Grown in Upstate New York

Featuring New Introductions By Joe Musacchia and Patrick O'Connor

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Musacchia, J. 2014
$35.00

EVERYTHING THAT RISES
O'Connor, P. 2014
$35.00

ALMOST FORGOTTEN
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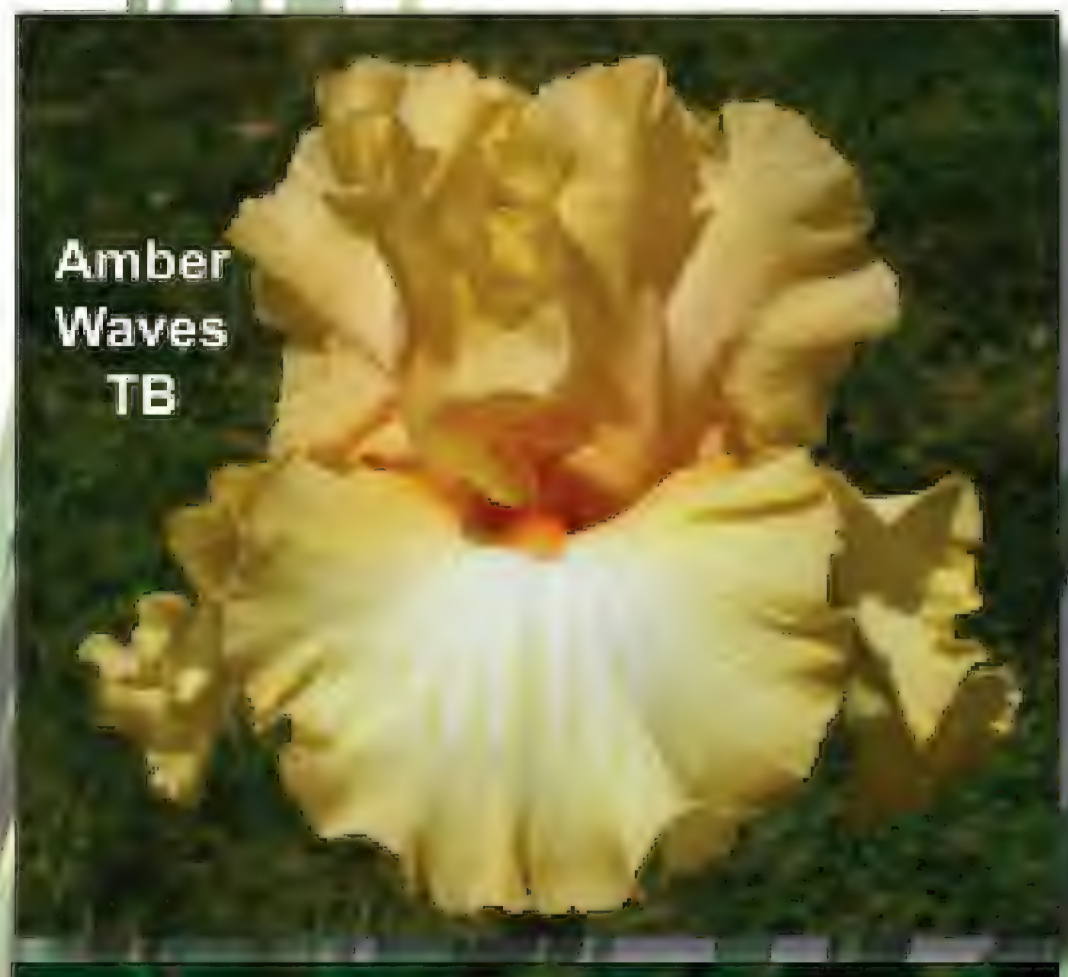

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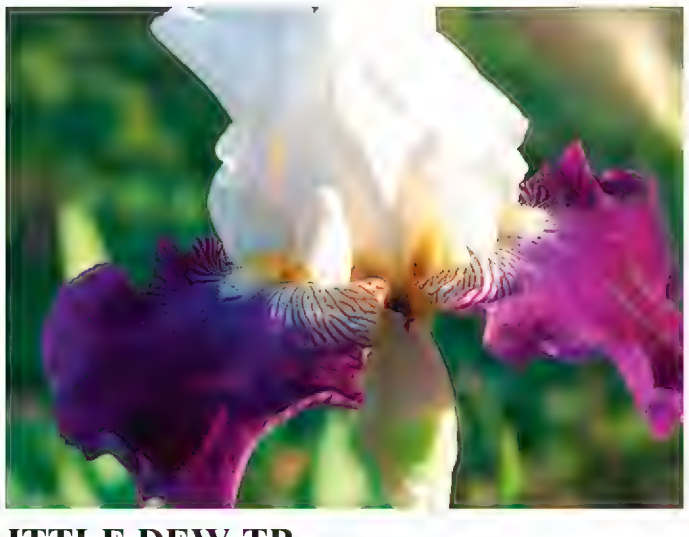

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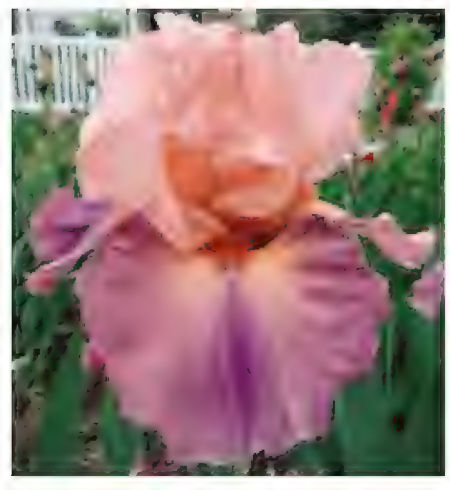

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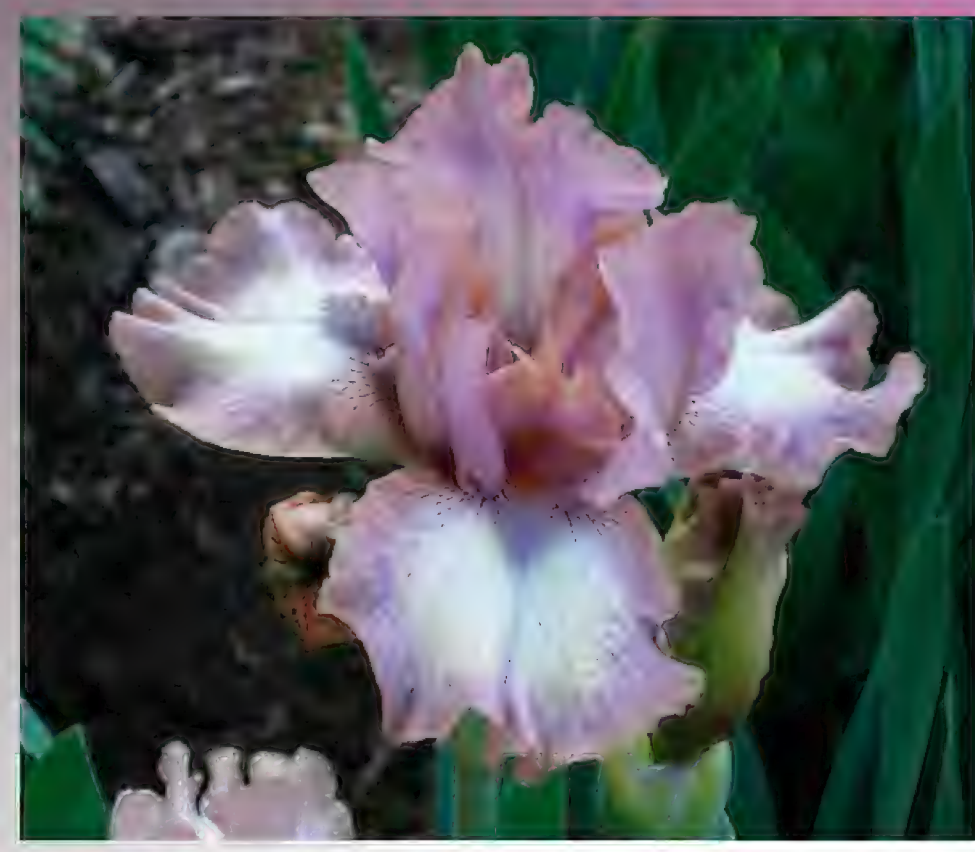

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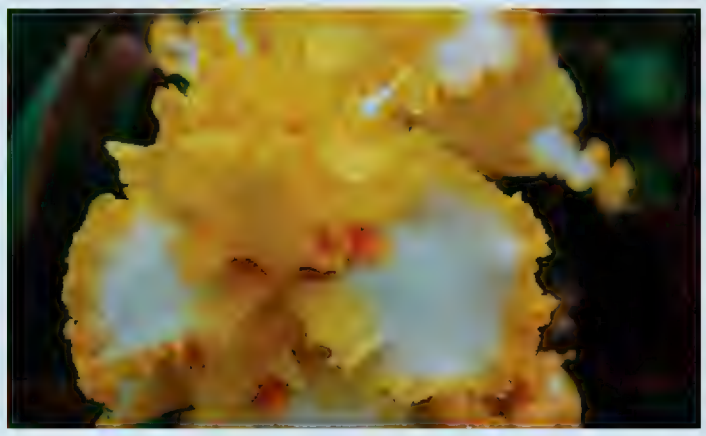

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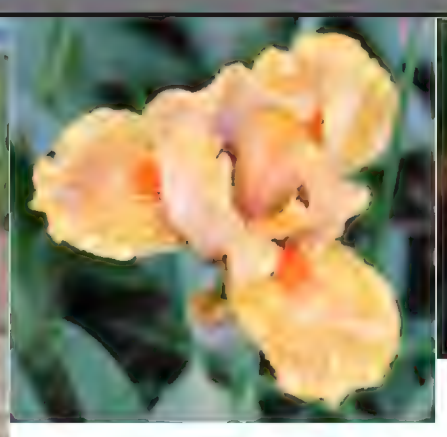

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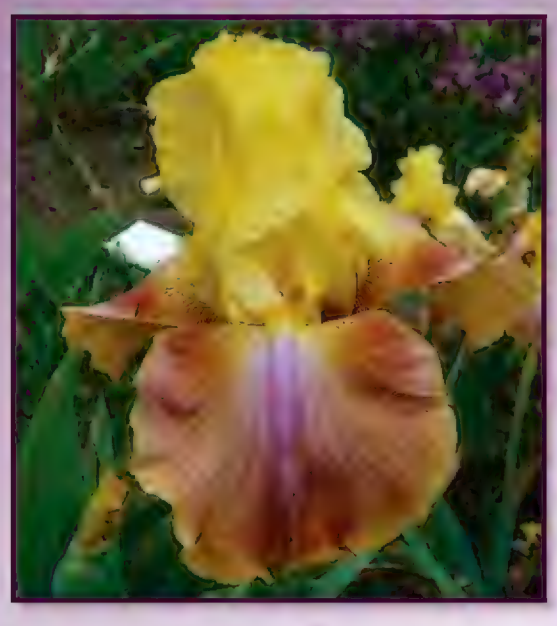

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2006: 'Sea Power' 1999

All photos from Shreiner's Gardens

Banking on you for Historic Iris Data

BRETT BARNEY, NEBRASKA

I made my first iris purchase in 2012, but my infection with the iris virus dates back about four decades, to my childhood. My family was poor, and my mother didn't see much point in raising plants that did not produce food. Along the edge of our lawn, though, was a small line of two or three irises that had been planted there by the previous owners. They came up and bloomed faithfully every year despite my mom's malicious neglect. Their extravagance, delicacy, and unusual colors left a permanent impression on me. I like just about every iris I have ever encountered; but the old ones, the ones that remind me of those "damned flags" from my boyhood home, are the ones that I'm most passionate about.

When I joined the Historic Iris Preservation Society two years ago, one of the first things I did was to order back issues of ROOTS. Reading those first articles from the late 1980s, I have been struck by the abundant ambition and zeal of the people who worked to bring HIPS into being. We owe a great debt of thanks to those men and women who recognized the importance of collective action to preserve old iris cultivars. They understood that success depended upon accurate, fundamental information about which varieties were being grown, and they set about surveying HIPS members. In the fall of 1990, Larry Doucette issued the first report based on 35 completed surveys.

The late Jerry Murphy compiled the most recent data in 2007. Besides the fact that it is now largely out-of-date, it is also incomplete in a crucial way: the data shows the number of people growing each cultivar without information about who or where the people were located. We can see, therefore, that 'Argentina' (Goos & Koenemann 1906) was only reported in one member garden, but we have no straightforward way to focus our attention on it. The same is true for 1500 other irises.

Soon after the board appointed me to manage the data bank last fall, I posted a request for data on the HIPS website. In February HIPS members received an issue of ROOTS with a different version of this article and a blank survey form. As I write this in mid-March, I have received about forty responses. That is a respectable start, but HIPS membership is now well over 750, and not everyone who grows historic irises is a member, so we still have only a hint about which irises have survived and in what numbers.

Unless you are one of the forty people who have already sent me a list of the historic irises you grow, I hope that you will take a moment to write up a list and send it to me today, before you forget. I will gladly accept information however I can get it—written or typed, by post or email. I will be happy to email the form to you if you would like to complete it. The only essential information is the name of each cultivar, as I will be consulting the AIS checklists for information on hybridizers and introduction dates. Be sure to include your complete contact information (name, address, phone, and email) and please specify which, if any, parts of your personal information you would like me to include with the data that is distributed to HIPS members.

Accuracy in the compiled data will be essential to its value as a tool, so please include only those cultivars about which you are reasonably sure. For example, do not list 'Baldwin' solely on the basis that the iris you grow looks like pictures of 'Baldwin' or that it came from your aunt's garden and 'Baldwin' is the only violet iris starred in the catalog you found in her attic. Of course, absolute certainty is probably impossible, so please do include all of the cultivars about whose identity you are quite confident.

Since I'm a relative newcomer to AIS and HIPS, I am a bit nervous about undertaking the task of compiling the databank. I agreed to take it on not because I think I have any special qualifications, but because it is obvious to me that an accurate, up-to-date databank can be of great value in preserving old irises into the future. As Nancy McDonald put it in one of the online forums, "Once we know which irises are most in danger, we can begin effectively to do something about it." I am willing to spend the time it will take to gather and organize the information. But the databank will only be as good as the data I get from individuals, so it is important that everyone who grows old cultivars contribute, whether you grow two or two thousand. ⚜

Brett Barney is a Research Associate Professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He and his wife grow about 750 irises.

You can reach Brett at
Brett Barney
320 Lincoln St.
Sterling NE 68443
< bbarney2@unl.edu>

Preserving Small, Historic Irises

BY CHARLIE CARVER, ORCAS, WASHINGTON

Charlie Carver is a professional gardener of nearly 30 years who is attempting to assemble a number of National Collections: historic dwarf and median iris (the older, the better), and complete collections of Bee Warburton introductions (bearded and beardless) and the dwarf and median introductions of Earl Roberts, Bennett Jones and Paul Cook. He is willing to purchase or trade.

Ed. note: In his article in the last issue of IRISES, *Charlie explained that while he had been collecting iris for a number of years he began seriously collecting in 2009 and that is when he developed an interest in historic irises .*

Discovering a Gap

Near the end of 2010, as I considered all the iris I had seen flower that season, all the photos I had examined on multiple websites as well as those in Carla Lankow's digital files, it was apparent that my interest was shifting from the tall-bearded varieties to the smaller iris that grow at the lower latitudes of the garden. It was a convergence of factors: the delicacy and scale of dwarf and medians, the texture of their foliage and the way I felt they would fit among the drought-tolerant, low growing and mounding species in my Mediterranean garden– they seemed more rugged, good solid working-class stock. Also, having spent a lot of time in alpine tundra and having developed an affinity for the flora there, the smaller iris aligned with the memory of those places and the experiences I cherished.

At the same time it was also becoming apparent to me that there were fewer historic varieties of these classes listed commercially. This led me to inquire among some members of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) and my friends and mentors, George and Carla Lankow. The response was consistent: most historic iris lovers focus their collections on tall-bearded varieties. I was surprised to discover that no one I spoke with knew anyone collecting historic dwarf and median iris.

This was striking, given my impression that so many of these lovely originals have had a noteworthy impact on hybridizing accomplishments in the tall bearded class. I began to suspect that, as so often happens in our progress-oriented culture, the small things were disappearing and their passing was going unnoticed. It seems to me we are the poorer for it if we take a rain of jewels for granted and dismiss or ignore them in the rush forward. They are a portion of our heritage. Are we to let generations of iris fall by the wayside for the novelties and fashions of the present? With collectors' attention focused elsewhere, there was an obvious gap, a horticultural black hole. In 2011 I shifted the bulk of my collecting efforts to historic dwarf and medians, resolved to assemble a collection that would help insure their preservation, their history and irreplaceable presence in our gardens while still keeping an eye out for distinctive historic varieties among the tall bearded, Siberian, and Japanese iris, etc.

Preservation

In the natural world we are witnessing an astonishing and unparalleled loss of biological and genetic diversity in the floral and faunal kingdoms. According to biologists, we are living in the midst of the greatest period of extinction in the history of the planet. I may not be able to save an orchid in the Amazon, a lemur in Madagascar or some wild iris known or unknown to botanists but I feel a responsibility to safeguard what I can of what remains: that which inhabits the surrounding forest where I live and as much as possible of the iris heritage bequeathed to us, both hybrids, collected species and their named forms.

So I collect iris and wonder about their stories. I collect them as genetic gems, as reservoirs of diversity and artifacts of beauty like a Gaugin, a Rodin or a John Singer Sargent. They are art, living sculpture, singular instances of magic.

Over the years, having read a number of books about English gardens, I had become aware that the British had established a system of horticultural and garden conservancies to preserve gardens of historic value and had also supported the creation of National Collections for many genera. Claire Austin's nursery, for example, holds the National Collection for bearded iris. I have been inspired by the idea of National Collections and thought we should do the same here to preserve the various facets of our horticultural heritage, in this case, iris.

Every iris has its own beauty and comes with a story, a soufflé of personal and cultural events attached, not to mention the genetic wealth embedded in it. I like a good story and I like a good iris. It is a source of distress for me to consider that an iris might vanish and perhaps its story as well or that the story might end on a note of loss or lament.

In January of 2012, much to my delight, Bob Pries called me to discuss the new AIS Committee for National Collections. Mr. Pries both created and is the Director (Conservator) of the program. Bob and I discussed the nature of national collections, how they could be dedicated to a specific class, hybridizer, color pattern, time period or various combinations thereof. His own experience with the loss of a collection had impressed upon him the significance of redundancy. We agreed on the need for redundancy as a key element of preservation. Collections that overlap and/or duplicate assure that loss suffered in one collection can be restored by plant material from another collection. I am sensitive to and supportive of his desire to see all collections, whether specific or random, documented in a national database and for provisions to be made for the preservation of collections at the time of the owner/curator's death, an elaboration on the concept of a living will. My intention is to collect, photo document, redistribute and assemble the data and anecdotes on each iris and set them loose into the halls of commerce once again.

Most of us, I assume, acquire iris simply because they are beautiful to behold. If each of us cultivated a special interest and focus for collecting, however small or limited, among our larger, general collection, the preservation effort would become more dispersed. The greater collective effort the more effective and less overwhelming it is to any one individual. Simply documenting and registering a collection, of any kind, would add an element of conciseness.

Somewhere on the internet I read that as of May 20, 2010, according to the AIS registrar, there were 63,365 registered iris. Other sources I have spoken with have disputed that, one suggesting there were as many as 80,000. Those daunting numbers, regardless of which is correct, put iris preservation in staggering perspective. Probably half are tall bearded. I haven't counted those listed in the *Cumulative Checklist of Siberian Irises 1999* and I haven't begun to speculate on how many other beardless varieties there are. By my count the *DIS Checklist 2007* and the *MIS Checklist 1990* contain 1,272 and 4,272 iris respectively. I ponder those numbers wondering how many still survive, somewhere in some iris lover's garden, unknown or traveling incognito under an alias. How many are still reaching for blue sky on abandoned homesteads, grow hugging the sunny side of a gravestone or have naturalized in some old field.

However I break the numbers down, THAT'S A LOT OF IRIS. As a preservationist I alternate between celebrating the diversity of that cosmos and cringing at the implications of collecting and maintaining such a horde.

How can we be sure which may still exist and which may be extinct, their radiant flame extinguished? I am too new to this to venture a response.

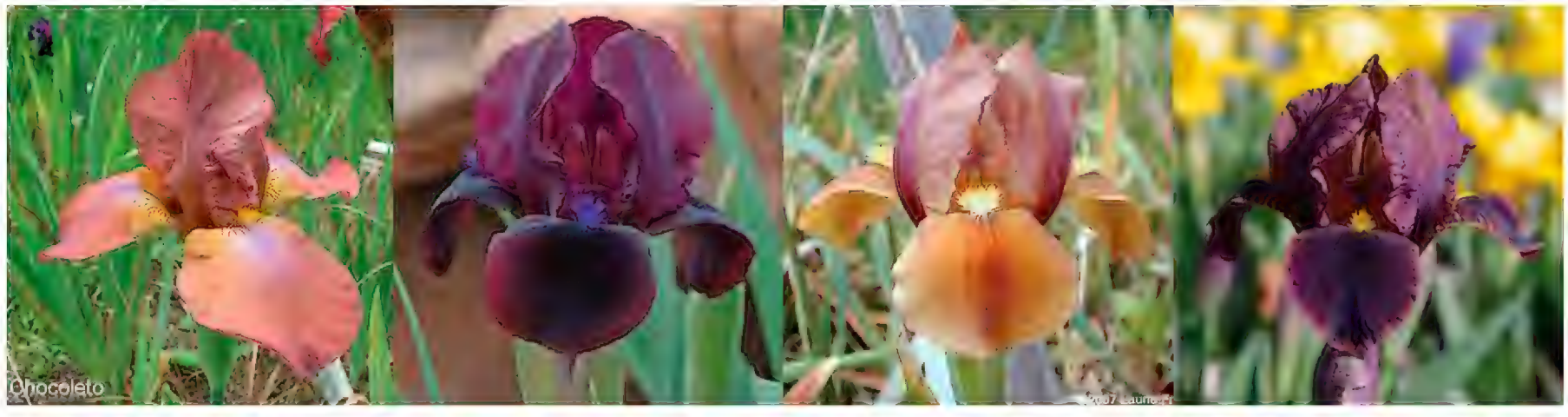
As of this writing, I have some data on about 6,000 dwarf, median and the so-called small tall varieties, information gleaned from using and cross-referencing *DIS 2007 Checklist* and *MIS 1990 Checklist*, Mahan's *Classic Iris*, HIPS *Iris Chronicles* re: Caparne and G&K, Austin Sand's *Cornell Bulletins*, AIS '39-'99 *Checklists*, and *The World of Iris* among others. The most I can realistically hope for is to assemble a representative collection.

Rogues and Misfits, Orphans, Waifs and Gypsies

One of the things that has become apparent as I become familiar with some of the data and literature on historic small bearded iris and cross reference that information, is that a lot of iris varieties seem to have fallen through the cracks in the compiling of dwarf and median checklists (also true of other checklists).

If these iris still exist, it is perhaps worthwhile to consider whether their absence from these checklists may inadvertently become one more contributing factor to their demise, a kind of "out of sight, out of mind" scenario. If registration and class distinction grant a certain legitimacy, status and legacy to a variety, checklists may garner renewed attention to them. In the context of preservation and national collections, that spotlight may prove critical to their rescue and resurrection.

left to right: 'Chocoleto' BB (Deru 1959) by MUnser, 'Garnet Elf' MDB (Hamblen 1977) by BJackson, 'Rare Penny' SDB (Plough 1980) by LFraser, 'Brown Spectacle' SDB (WWelch 1977) by DMcQueen



left to right: 'Doxa' IB (Sass 1928) by MUnser, 'Snappie' IB (Warburton 1975) by LTasquier, 'Parakeet' MTB (EarlRoberts 1957) by EVerp, 'Copy Cat' BB (Ghio 1974) by JRichter, 'Wee Doll' MDB (Greenlee 1981) by AMoran

The oversight seems to reflect changes in class criteria and/or the creation of new classes as well as uncertainty about the size of some older irises. A number of the smaller historics, including small talls, are often bypassed in the compilation process. Though re-designation has occurred, it is not clear how common a practice it is. Many varieties with older classifications, DB, IB, IMB or TB, could likely meet current class criteria and be redesignated, though I suspect it would be quite an undertaking. (I mean no disrespect to the enormous effort and remarkable dedication of those who compiled the checklists. I am forever grateful for these valuable resources).

I have wondered whether the preservation movement should resurrect the IMB (Intermediate Miscellaneous Bearded) class to simplify the task of re-designation if that route were chosen. Could members of HIPS, MIS and DIS pool their notes to compile an IMB checklist?

The point is visibility. If we do not keep these iris on the radar, what then? I fear for them should they remain buried among the biblical lore in the dusty corridors of the monumental and magnificent *AIS 1939 Checklist* and those that followed.

There will, of course, always be rogues of historic and modern vintage, who do not adhere to the restrictions of class and yet may radiate a loveliness and embody a uniqueness of form, color or patterning too exquisite to discard or label stud.

And what of NOIDs? Their number is growing in my garden. I don't mind, some are so beautiful and among my favorites. It has been easy to acknowledge I would rather a hundred lovely unknowns than a thousand lesser iris with their identities confirmed and their pedigrees intact. Who are these NOIDs, these orphans, waifs and gypsies lifting their skirts and dancing so carelessly under the cover of their anonymity? They are the most mysterious of all and I would love them if only for the puzzle they present and the curiosity they inspire. Who is the iris behind the masquerade and what is her story? Where did she come from and how far has she travelled? Will we ever know? Of this much I am certain, like all things traced to their origins, back to the first iris and further still, we will discover that we share a common ancestry whether biological or molecular. Genealogy takes on a deeper meaning. Iris are in our blood. Those gypsies are family.

For Love Of Iris

The intentions which informed the writing of this article were threefold: the first was for love of iris. The second was to draw attention to the plight of the smaller historic bearded iris and the need to preserve them. I would make a similar plea for historics in all classes and most especially species. Thirdly, I am fully aware that the success of my endeavors is entirely dependent upon the greater iris community's continuing generosity and passion for preservation of iris. Generosity, passion– does anything better define this community?

I make an open plea to all of you who may still grow some of the old matriarchs (and patriarchs) of this extraordinary lineage. Your varied personal collections are the reservoirs of the named species and varieties that will form the basis of any truly representative National Collection of Historic Dwarf and Median Iris or any other National Collections.

I solicit your contributions of iris, those I have selected for acquisition and those you think should be considered. I am willing to buy, trade, pay postage for donated iris and honor whatever arrangements suit your circumstances. Referrals to known or possible sources of historics, photos, information and stories that enrich the story of an iris, copies of old catalogs, and referrals to sources of data are all equally valuable.

My acquisitions lists are too lengthy to print here, but if you contact me, I will share them with you. ⚜

Anyone in the iris community who is concerned about the preservation of the dwarf or median historic iris that they are growing is encouraged to contact Charlie at

P.O. Box 392, Orcas WA, 98280
360-376-6109
lefthandhorticulture@gmail.com.

Hybridizing Plicata Tall Bearded Iris

BY JIM HEDGECOCK, MISSOURI

from *World of Irises* January 17, 2012

The most interesting patterns in irises for me have always been the plicatas. I have always had lots of success with crosses for these patterns and lots of surprises along the way. I will, however, be truthful when I say that some patterns just aren't particularly hot sellers in the commercial world. I look at other hybridizers work and I am very impressed with new accomplishments and I am anxious to add them to our retail growing fields to sell. Many times I am disappointed when they don't sell in any volume. As a hybridizer and retail grower, I have learned to understand this quandary. New advancements in iris breeding aren't always popular, but they are so important to the overall iris industry.

I guess you can say I am a hybridizer that has a few years under my belt. 2012 will mark my 32nd year to be dabbing pollen. I think after all of this time, I have settled down to where I want to go with my efforts.

Several years ago I really started working with plicatas. My first crosses were made with wild color combinations. Pink plicatas on purple, brown on purple, etc. My first surprises were, these seedlings were not ugly. Many came in colors that were very pleasing to the eye and many came in color combinations that I knew already existed. At this point, I realized that someone had already tried some of these crosses.

Next I began to look at the borders on introduced varieties and my seedlings. I found out there are plicatas with borders of two colors. Some of these can be quite definite in contrast. So my goal was established. I wanted to try to produce plicatas with several distinct bands of different colored borders. I want the falls on plicatas to have two or more, wide, distinct, color bands that are a knockout contrast to the basic fall color.

My thought is to cross some of the wonderful new banded bicolors that are now on the market with modern plicatas and roll the dice. My crosses are already made and being grown off. The first seedlings will bloom this year.

There has been some discussion in hybridizer circles that the position of plicata markings on the petals can be transferred in crosses. In other words, a plicata with narrow color borders very close to the edges should throw some seedlings with the same defined edges. I have a new seedling, R125A, that has a very defined plicata pattern around the beards only.

I have made a number of crosses with named varieties of plicatas that have definite bold plicata edges and clean backgrounds around the beards. These seedlings should establish my theory as to whether the two patterns on the falls can be combined into one. In my opinion, these seedlings will open the door to many new possibilities in plicata patterns. Many plicata varieties already exist that have patterns in varying positions on the falls and standards.

Since 2012 I have made specific crosses to see if positioning of patterns related to specific areas of the falls and standards can be transferred to seedlings and so far it appears to be a success. I have also made crosses with newer named varieties that have definite colored bands and plicatas to see if the patterns will carry to the resulting plicata seedlings. I am not far enough along to give a full report on these yet, but very early results look promising.

If you are starting out in tall bearded iris hybridizing, get on plicata the boat, you won't be sorry.

Jim Hedgecock has been awarded nine Honorable Mention Awards by AIS. Contact Jim at Comanche Acres Iris Garden, 12421 SE State Hwy 116, Gower, MO 64454 816-424-6436 www.comancheacresiris.com

This page left to right: Seedling R125A and 'Ordination' (Hedgecock 2012)

Facing page, left to right: seedlings V-13, Y-23 and Z-25

Request For Guest Japanese Iris

Region 13 Spring Convention and Garden Tour, July 2017 in cooperation with the Society for Japanese Irises

The King County Iris Society will host the Region 13 Spring Convention and Garden Tour in early July 2017 in cooperation with the Society for Japanese Irises. Therefore, we are requesting guest plants of Japanese irises, late season species, late season interspecies, and other late season beardless irises. These may be either rhizomes of recent introductions or seedlings under consideration for introduction.

Up to 3 rhizomes of each variety of your guest irises are welcome. Only those plants submitted in the following manner will be listed in the convention booklet.

Please ship your plants between August 25, 2014 and September 5, 2014. Dwayne would appreciate knowing which plants you are sending ahead of time. He may be reached by email at DBooAnn1@msn.com or by phone 425-971-5607. A packing list must accompany each shipment. On the packing list please provide the following information:

1. Hybridizer's name and address (physical and email),
2. Name or seedling number of each variety (include this information on each rhizome as well),
3. Bloom height,
4. Anticipated bloom time within the particular class of irises (i.e. early, mid-season or late) and
5. Year of introduction (if applicable).

Please ship your plants to:
Dwayne Booth, Guest Iris Chair,
PO Box 15052,
Mill Creek, WA 98082-3052.

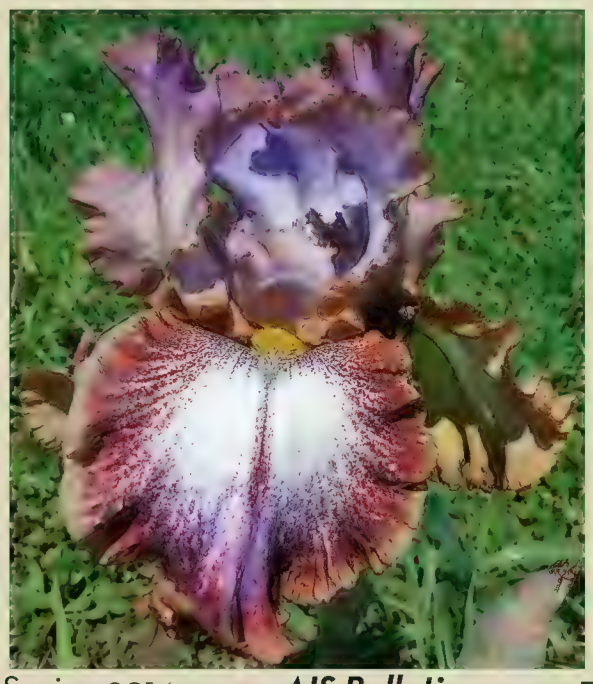
Dwayne will send confirmation to indicate receipt of the plants.

If a guest seedling is later named, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify Dwayne by January 15, 2017. The convention booklet will reflect the information received by that date.

By May 1, 2017 hybridizers will be required to provide their instructions regarding disposition of plants to Dwayne. Seedlings for which Dwayne doesn't receive instructions, will be destroyed. Registered varieties for which he doesn't receive instructions will become the property of the King County Iris Society.

The Convention Committee and the tour garden owners will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

Please feel free to contact the convention co-chairs in addition to Dwayne:
Patrick Spence, 425-770-5984
Ann Booth, 425-743-3066.



Request For Guest Beardless Iris

"East We Go In 2016"

2016 AIS Convention In Newark, New Jersey

The Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and the American Iris Society will host The AIS National Convention in May 2016. Convention attendees will tour three gardens in the mid-Atlantic region. Master plantings will be established in two or more host gardens. Hybridizers of bearded varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted rhizomes will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to two rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from August 15 through September 15, 2014. Please ship plants to:

Nancy Skjei-Lawes
Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
474 Upper Mountain Avenue
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 (mail) or (UPS/FEDEX)

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

1. Hybridizer's name and address
2. Name or seedling number of the variety
3. Type of iris (Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, etc)
4. Height, color, distinguishing features
5. Year of introduction (if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributor's email address to receive an electronic receipt. Absent of an email address a receipt will be mailed to all contributors.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the guest iris chair of the change. Updates should include the name and the corresponding seedling number.

Contacts:
Paul W. Gossett pwgossett@juno.com
George Boyce: glenara@aol.com

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by April 1, 2016 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distribute named varieties, one to each host garden. The rest will be dispositioned as determined by the convention committee. No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the Internet or by any other means that competes with sales by the contributors. Guest iris that are returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The convention committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

The convention committee and owners of the host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control. ⚜

Request For Guest Spuria Iris

2017 Spuria Iris Convention
Los Angeles, California

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society will be host for the Spuria Iris Convention in late April/early May 2017 (exact dates will be announced later). Hybridizers are invited to send rhizomes of recent spuria introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction.

There will be two large and beautiful public gardens for display. The Huntington Library and Gardens and Descanso Gardens. You may send up to six rhizomes of any one variety. They will be divided among the two gardens. Plants will be accepted from September 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014. Let us know as soon as possible, if you're contributing plants and how many. Please write to the Guest Iris Chair and the Convention Chair.

Please observe the following guidelines for submission of guest iris. The name of the variety or the seedling number should be clearly marked on each plant. In addition, please include the following information on a separate packing list accompanying the plants:

1. Hybridizer's name, street address, phone number, and email address
2. Plant name or seedling number of each variety
3. Height and color

Ship Plants to:
Jill Bonino, Guest Iris Chair, 2017 Spuria Mini-Convention
3110 Kirkham Drive,
Glendale, CA 91206
< jillbon@earthlink.net>

If a guest seedling is later named, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the guest iris chair no later than January 2017.

Before the convention, hybridizers will be asked for instructions for disposition of plants and for any donations for auction to help raise money for the society. Failure to reply in a timely manner will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and to distribute or put into auction with other named varieties. Required returns will be at the hybridizer's expense.

Note: The two display gardens mentioned above have confirmed that they will become permanent Spuria Iris Display Gardens after the convention, which means that they want to keep your rhizomes. Spuria irises will have substantial display areas and attention, which will benefit the society, growers, hybridizers and spuria lovers alike.

The convention committee will follow the code of ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook* (last revision 2007). ⚜

'Betty Cooper' (Eleanor McCown 1982)
by JLauritzen at Mystic Lake Gardens
(from AIS encyclopedia)

Spuria Convention Chair:
Andi Rivarola <andinsky@gmail.com>

In Your Backyard

What's happening in your garden? A reader-driven feature in *IRISES*!

Submit your stories and photos to the editor for future inclusion in this segment!

No More Iris Borers

BY PAT MCNEAL, MARYLAND

After I became a member of the AIS in 2008, I began hearing stories of how iris borers could wipe out an iris patch. I had grown irises for years and was not aware of any problem in my patch. Yet, not wanting to be caught off guard, I studied up on borers, their life cycle and how to tell if you have them. When spring came, I watched for signs of them in my irises and gratefully came up empty handed. However, when I was digging irises that summer, I found a couple of rhizomes with evidence of borer damage, though they had healed.

The following year, I dug up a clump of irises a distance away from the rest and found an infestation of borers. The old foliage had not been removed the preceding fall. There were nine nearly mature larvae that I dug out of the rhizomes and killed. However, I never saw any more after that in my irises.

I doubt that those were the only borers on our property. It's highly unlikely that I found every last one of them. I believe the reason we didn't have any more borers is that we had been using a bug zapper light all through the summer into fall to reduce mosquitoes. It appears to have worked very well to control the corn borer moths that had been causing problems in our sweet corn crops for years, as well as the iris borer.

Since the iris borer is the larva of a moth, if you can eliminate the moths before they lay eggs, you will eliminate the damage to your plants. The moths hatch and begin to lay eggs on old foliage in the late summer and fall where they overwinter and hatch in the spring. The tiny larvae then tunnel down through the leaves into the rhizome where they can completely hollow out the flesh. Since we expanded our use of the zapper, we have had no more borers that I am aware of. I consider the bug zapper a safe, time-saving, cost-effective way to control the borer. No need to spray toxic chemicals!

Bug zappers come in various sizes according to how large an area they protect. Home gardeners should be able to easily use a zapper to protect their irises. Large, commercial iris growers would have to use more of them strategically placed throughout their plantings.

If the iris borer is a problem in your garden, the bug zapper could be just the thing you need. Just be sure to install and use it before the moths hatch and begin to lay eggs. ⚜

Photos of borer and moth from the Iris Encyclopedia under Cultural Information/Pests_Diseases.

Ed. note: Generally, iris borers are not found west of the Rocky Mountains; so if this is where you live, count yourself lucky.

Iris with Ladybug
by Elise_Ange
Runner-Up, 2013 Photo

Check out the AIS Blog!

http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/

THE CROCUS, A SIGN TO FERTILIZE

BY STAN CHERNISS, CALIFORNIA

Whenever I meet someone starting to growing irises, I find that the big problem seems to be fertilizing. I have found that everyone from zone 5 to 9 seems to have crocus bulbs. I always tell the new people (and it has always worked) that when the crocus starts to bloom it is time to do the first fertilizing of the year. The second time to fertilize is about one week after the last bloom. I use 5-10-10 with a dusting of epsom salts, but any all purpose fertilizer would be fine.

Some other tips on fertilizing:

1. The fertilizer of choice seems to be 6-24-24 for growers in the middle states such as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. Low nitrogen fertilizer is important in these states because abundant growth during the summer months often means rot. Too much nitrogen in the fall months means that the irises have a tendency to die when the first cold weather arrives, especially if it is extreme and suddenly much colder than it has been.
2. Many, many people have discovered that making an iris bed in virgin soil means no additives are needed in the soil for at least the first two or three years. Many people have made their beds "too good" and have ended up with heavy losses. Usually, the new soil has enough nutrients and adding more tends to make the soil too rich. Of course, one would have to know the soil type in his own area before making such a broad statement as fact.
3. Be very careful in using liquid fertilizer as you would on many other garden plants. Sometimes this results in beautiful plants with strong growth, but if the season is one of those that produces rot easily, these healthy plants may turn to mush if liquid fertilizer was applied.
4. Many people who live in climates where mulching is not used in the winter and where some winter days are warm enough to do garden work have found the fertilizer can be applied during the winter months in order to get a head start on spring work. Just be sure to follow the same rules as you would during the growing season, ie be sure the fertilizer does not get on the plant. If the fertilizer can be placed around the plant in January, it leaves more free time in February (or whenever the crocus bloom in your area).
5. An application of fertilizer immediately after spring bloom is very important in the remontants (reblooming irises). Most people have found that sufficient water during summer months is probably even more important than the fertilizer for good fall bloom. ⚜

Reprinted from the American Iris Society Bulletin, October 1992. (edited by Kathleen Sonntag)

Iris *bucharica, photo by D Kramb from SIGNA website*

Herbicide Studies: Weed Control in Irises

BY JOHN E. KAUFMANN, MICHIGAN

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles John is writing on weed control in irises. He welcomes questions about his studies via email and thanks the AIS Foundation for the financial support of his work.)

In the previous article, I completed the discussion on Group E herbicides and then covered the Group K herbicides (those that target shoot initials of germinating seeds) and Group D herbicides. This article is covering only Group G, a group that has only one herbicide, glyphosate or Roundup®. In this article, I will use Roundup® when I am talking about the formulated product that you buy in a container. When I use glyphosate, it means I am talking about the active ingredient only. My use of the Roundup® trade name, does not mean I think other products containing glyphosate are inferior. I emphasize once again that that you are required to follow the label instructions found on the container. Also, herbicides, in their concentrated form, may not be transferred to or stored in anything except the original container where the product name and safety precautions must be easily readable.

How Roundup® Works

Roundup® is the most versatile of all herbicides because of its relative safety to non-plant life and how it works and behaves in the environment. It enters only green leaves and stems of all plants. Then it moves both up and down inside the plant to growing points of both leaves and roots. At the growing points, glyphosate binds with the enzyme that produces aromatic amino acids, a group of essential amino acids that humans need to eat in order to survive. Without these amino acids, plants slowly starve to death. That is why it takes from several days (in optimum, warm weather) to several weeks (in cold weather) for the plants to discolor and die.

Roundup® Action

Roundup® and nearly all other glyphosate products are a mixture of glyphosate and detergents, similar to, but not the same as, laundry detergents. The need for detergent is that glyphosate alone is poor at penetrating waxy layers of green leaf surfaces. Once inside the leaf, glyphosate moves around much better when the plant is actively growing. The active growing points "suck" the glyphosate. However in perennials, not all the growing points are active at the same time. Once one growing point is stopped by glyphosate, another "breaks" and the glyphosate is "sucked" to that one, etc. If a perennial plant has too many underground growing points, eventually the glyphosate "runs out" and the plant begins to grow again, often with new young leaves severely distorted compared to their normal shape. This distortion also occurs on all plants if your initial application rate is too low, and it can also occur if you are not careful and "drift" a little Roundup® on your desired ornamentals and flowers. Figure 1 is a photo of a bearded iris bloom (on left) that is distorted by Roundup® drift while the bloom (on right) is normal. Both were in bud at the time of Roundup® drift. Can you answer the question, at the time of spray, which one was likely the most actively growing?

Environmental Inactivation

The other special characteristic of Roundup® is that it is immediately inactivated (bound up) upon contact with soil, dust covered rocks or even mature, brown tree bark (not green), and then it is degraded over the next couple of weeks. This is a great advantage if you wish to replant or reseed an area soon after killing existing vegetation. If you wish to kill perennial weeds, first allow at least two weeks of undisturbed growth to maximize the amount of healthy green vegetation, spray with the maximum labeled rate of Roundup® for your weeds species, wait a minimum of three days, and then till and prepare the new seedbed for your garden.

Lawn & Garden Products

Often Roundup® products found in the homeowner market have the trade name "Grass & Weed Killer." Since glyphosate is the common chemical name, you must look carefully at the active ingredients to find the concentration. Ready-to-use products often contain 1-2 percent glyphosate, while the most concentrated forms contain 41percent. It is quite easy to see that pound for pound, 41percent should cost more than twenty times as much as 1-2 percent. However, sometimes the same sized containers are much closer to being the same price. So make sure that when you are buying the ready-to-use product, the convenience of not having to measuring it out in the proper dilution is worth the cost difference to you.

Grass and weed killer products may also have

additional trade name phrases such as "Extended Control" or "Long Lasting Control." When you see this, look for a second active ingredient. Usually that second ingredient is either a Group E or Group L herbicide, which means there is residual weed prevention of newly germinating seeds added to the product.

In addition, grass and weed killers labels may have the additional words, "quick results" or "rapid burn-down." In this case, the product may contain a Group D herbicide that causes leaf discoloration in less than 24 hours. These products are for homeowners who are either impatient to see results or want to see where they have already treated when they go out a couple of days later to kill more weeds. Be aware that these Group D herbicides can act so quickly that they reduce the chance that Roundup® has time to get in the leaf and move to the growing points. Thus these "fast burn" forms can actually reduce the ability of Roundup®.

Using a hooded sprayer is one of the best ways to spray Roundup® among iris plants, even on days with light wind. Figure 2 is a photo of the hooded sprayer that I use. I have added plexiglass "runners" on both ends of the hood that allow it to rest approximately one inch off the weed/soil surface. The runners help block spray that might be directed onto the iris, and they make it easier to glide the hood smoothly over short, weedy vegetation. I also have found that walking backward pulling the hood is preferred for two reasons: 1) I do not walk through recently sprayed vegetation, and 2) the hood slides over the vegetation at a more uniform speed keeping the rate of application more uniform.

Finally, glyphosate has an interesting discovery history. It was first made in in Europe the 1940s, but no one knew it was an herbicide. In the 1950s and 1960s, numerous companies were researching phosphate detergents. As it is a phosphate-based molecule, both Monsanto and Proctor and Gamble managed to "remake" glyphosate in the process. Monsanto found and patented the use as an herbicide and Proctor and Gamble found and patented its potential use as a cancer control/prevention agent. Looking back, one can only imagine the very different image all of us would all have of glyphosate if Proctor and Gamble was the only company to have tested it.

Figure 1: Iris distorted by Roundup®

Figure 2: Hooded Sprayer

John Kaufmann is a retired herbicide researcher who worked for Monsanto. For more information about his studies with herbicides and their effects on irises, email him at jekaufmann@gmail.com.

Rebloom Looks For New Avenues

BY MIKE LOCKATELL

MIKE LOCKATELL, ROOTS & BLOOMS, LLC,
500 PANTELA DRIVE, NORTH CHESTERFIELD, VA 23235-5020
WWW.ROOTSANDBLOOMS.US 804-330-2916

Cool season bearded iris rebloom development has slowed in recent memory. Many factors have contributed to this decline. Unrealistic expectations are high on the list. The genetic trait for bearded rebloom is recessive. If fickle microclimate growing conditions are considered, the odds do not favor finding reliable parents to use for future cross pollinations. Unlike spring bloom only bearded iris breeders, cool season reblooming iris pollen daubers are truly an endangered species. Patience, determination and a thick skin are key traits for any serious player.

Dr. G. Percy Brown was an early rebloom trailblazer. Beginning in the 1920s, Dr. Brown's early work was truly remarkable. Breeding options were very limited in the early years. The Barre, Massachusetts breeder successfully converted a promising diploid seedling (24 chromosomes) to a tetraploid (48 chromosomes) through cross pollinations. The diploid heritage behind his innovative work is not totally clear, but it did influence the creation of 'September Sparkler' (G.P. Brown, R.1943). The deep blue tall bearded provided a platform for future Brown introductions including 'Autumn Sensation' (G.P. Brown, R.1961). Thanks to Sass' breeding in Nebraska, 'Autumn King' (H.P. Sass, R. 1925) could be a capable parent. 'Autumn Elf' (G.P. Brown, R. 1935) assumed that 'Gracchus' (Ware, 1884) component could spark rebloom in its children.

The next important player in cool season rebloom development was **Dr. Raymond G. Smith**. The Indiana University speech professor found great value in establishing rebloom lines using 'Tiffany' (H.P. Sass, R. 1938) through 'Gibson Girl' (James Gibson, R. 1946). The light pinkish mulberry and deep rose mulberry plicata from the west coast was a vital ingredient in Dr. Smith's 'Purple Duet' (R.G. Smith 1966) and 'Replicata' (R.G. Smith 1966) lineages.

Lloyd Zurbrigg's arrival from Listowel, Ontario, Canada to pursue a postgraduate degree in music at University of Illinois in 1963 would be extremely beneficial to both hybridizers and rebloom. As Lloyd would later recall, "What a trick of fate." During his time in Bloomington, spring weather calamities convinced Zurbrigg to make rebloom the focus of his hybridizing. Raymond Smith's presence and collaboration probably influenced his decision. After he was awarded his doctorate, Lloyd accepted a teaching position at Radford College in Virginia. The Shenandoah Valley location would prove to be an ideal growing environment to develop and promote rebloom in bearded irises.

'Grand Baroque' (Zurbrigg, 1969) was Lloyd's first introduction at Radford. The slightly ruffled yellow amoena had Smith's 'Replicata' behind it. 'Amy' (Zurbrigg, 1974), a 'Purple Duet' child, was combined with 'Grand Baroque' (Zurbrigg, 1968) to create 'I Do' (Zurbrigg, 1974). The ruffled white is capable of flowering in summer and fall in Central Virginia. Its impact can be seen in Zurbrigg's best tall bearded rebloomers. 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982) (I Do X English Cottage), 'Clarence' (Zurbrigg, 1991) (unknown) and 'Daughter of Stars' (D. Spoon, 2001) (Clarence X Mind Reader) were finalists for the prestigious Dykes Medal. 'Gate of Heaven' (Zurbrigg, 2004) (Clarence X St. Petersburg) was the last tall bearded rebloom seedling Zurbrigg introduced. The flared and ruffled medium blue has established a stellar fall flowering profile here plus exciting breeding possibilities.

As important as 'I Do' was to Zurbrigg rebloom breeding, the same can be said for 'Violet Miracle' (Zurbrigg, 1979). Another 'Purple Duet' child, its fall flowering reliability and breeding potential have been sensational. 'Suky' (Mahan, 1991) and 'Matrix' (E. Hall by Zurbrigg, 1991) addressed nagging flower form issues and rebloomed. 'Violet Miracle' made Walter Moores' list in Progenitors in Modern Reblooming Iris. Walter stated, "This is the only reblooming progenitor which has a score of one hundred percent. All seventeen registered cultivars from it have been registered as rebloomers."

Jane McKnew tried 'Violet Miracle' with 'Titan's Glory' (Schreiner's 1981). 'Rosalie Figge' (J. McKnew R. 1993) acquired the best flower qualities from each parent and remains a popular rebloom selection for novice gardeners. 'Titan's Glory' reflects an important philosophy helpful for rebloom hybridizing. "Contemporary thinking is that *I. aphylla* carries a factor that intensifies color in its seedlings." (Schreiner, 1958, *The World of Irises*, page 70) The **Sass** brothers,

Top to Bottom:
'Tiffany' (H.P. Sass, R. 1938) by Mike Unser
'Gibson Girl' (James Gibson, R. 1946)
'Gracchus' (Ware 1884) by Mike Unser
'Autumn Elf' (G.P. Brown, R. 1939) by Mike Lowe
'Purple Duet' (R.G. Smith 1966)

Paul Cook and **Robert Schreiner** incorporated *I. aphylla* derivatives into their blue, black, violet and purple lines to achieve darker colored seedlings. Since rebloom has been observed in *I. aphylla*, could 'Titan's Glory' have inherited the species' fall flowering genetics from 'Navy Strut' (Schreiner 1974) or 'Prince Indigo' (Schreiner 1964)? Despite the odds, pairing 'Violet Miracle' with the 1988 Dykes Medalist 'Titan's Glory' resulted in rebloom magic.

I. aphylla can also transmit improved branching to its offspring. If early Sass Brothers' work tried to fold this quality into their breeding lines, it is reasonable to assume Robert Schreiner saw the benefit too. Lloyd Zurbrigg may have concluded the rebloom carrier in 'Crinkled Ivory' (Schreiner, 1955) came from the species. If *I. cengialtii* is behind Ware's 'Gracchus', then a pairing with G.P. Brown's 'Autumn Sensation' created an interesting cool season rebloom line for Lloyd to explore. 'English Cottage' (Zurbrigg, 1976), 'Key Lime' (Zurbrigg, 1977), 'Latest Style' (Zurbrigg, 1979) and 'Earl of Essex' (Zurbrigg, 1980) have this unique combination in their lineage.

Flower form has been a major issue for AIS judges evaluating rebloom varieties for awards. The knock on rebloomers was dirty hafts, poor substance, narrow petals, muddy colors and snaky bloomstalks. If *I. aphylla* was present in 'Sister Helen' (Zurbrigg, 1977) through 'Crystal Blue' (Schreiner 1964) and 'Tyrolean Blue' (Schreiner 1963), Zurbrigg could address flower color and form and retain some rebloom genetics in his blue lines. A willingness by Lloyd Zurbrigg and Clarence Mahan to use 'Victoria Falls' (Schreiner, 1977) would finally take cool season rebloom hybridizing to the next level. Zurbrigg used second generation children from the award winning Schreiner's tall bearded irises heavily in crosses in the mid-1980s.

Lloyd Zurbrigg had to delicately weave G.P. Brown, R.G. Smith and Robert Schreiner rebloom varieties and carriers into his various lines. The gene pool for out crossing was extremely restrained. Flower color, form, branching and vigor issues influenced parental choices. After leaving Radford for Durham, North Carolina in the early 1990s, Zurbrigg's best irises hit the iris marketplace.

Inspired by Zurbrigg's earlier work, Monty Byers, Ben Hager, Earl Hall, Clarence Mahan and Jane McKnew released tall bearded rebloom introductions. In addition to reliable fall flowering, flower form greatly improved.

The late **Sterling Innerst** used 'Renown' and 'Anxious' (Hager, 1992) to create 'Again & Again' (Innerst, 1999). Blocky ruffled medium yellow blooms have appeared at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Goochland, Virginia from June to November during the past two years. To date, the early 1990s were tall bearded rebloom's finest hour.

Tom Silvers (source) is a species breeding specialist from Rohrersville, Maryland. He found rebloom success crossing a *I. cengialtii* clone with SPEC-X 'Clown Pants' (Silvers, T. 2006) or *I. variegata* X *I. suaveolens var. mellita*. *I. cengialtii*, a diploid alpine iris species with rebloom genetics, was collected in the mountains of Northern Italy. *I. suaveolens var. mellita* is another diploid alpine iris species rebloom carrier. The cross produced reblooming MTBs 'Cricket Song' (Silvers, T. 2012) and 'Easy Smile' (Silvers, T. 2006). They have reliably flowered for Tom in October.

Even though my presence in the field of reblooming iris hybridizing has been a short one, there seems to be no absolutes or magic bullets in finding seedlings with late summer or fall flowering tendencies. Lloyd Zurbrigg's winning strategy was adding more rebloom parents to each generation of seedlings. With limited options, line breeding became important and successful.

Unknown parentage continues to hamper rebloom investigation and development. This problem is particularly keen in tracing fall flowering origins in the AIS registrations before 1940. The biggest setback, however, is the lost 'Clarence' heritage. Ten years passed before Don Spoon released 'Daughter of Stars'. 'Gate of Heaven' and 'Just Call Me' (Wilkerson, 2008) appeared later in the decade. Like Zurbrigg's last tall bearded rebloom release, 'Gate of Heaven', 'Just Call Me' has been an outstanding performer in my central Virginia garden.

Lloyd Zurbrigg's stud book lists cross pollinations dating back to the 1970s. There are also reselect notes to identify some seedlings. No commentary, however, was found to explain his breeding motivation. Since his passing in 2005, I have used instinct, hunches and garden observation to continue his work for improved cool season rebloomers. Seedlings have refined my knowledge, but time is becoming an obstacle. Tom Silvers' work may give rebloom hybridizers more future breeding options to uncover reliable summer flowering for colder climates. Who will rebloom's next G.P. Brown, Raymond Smith or Lloyd Zurbrigg be? ⚜

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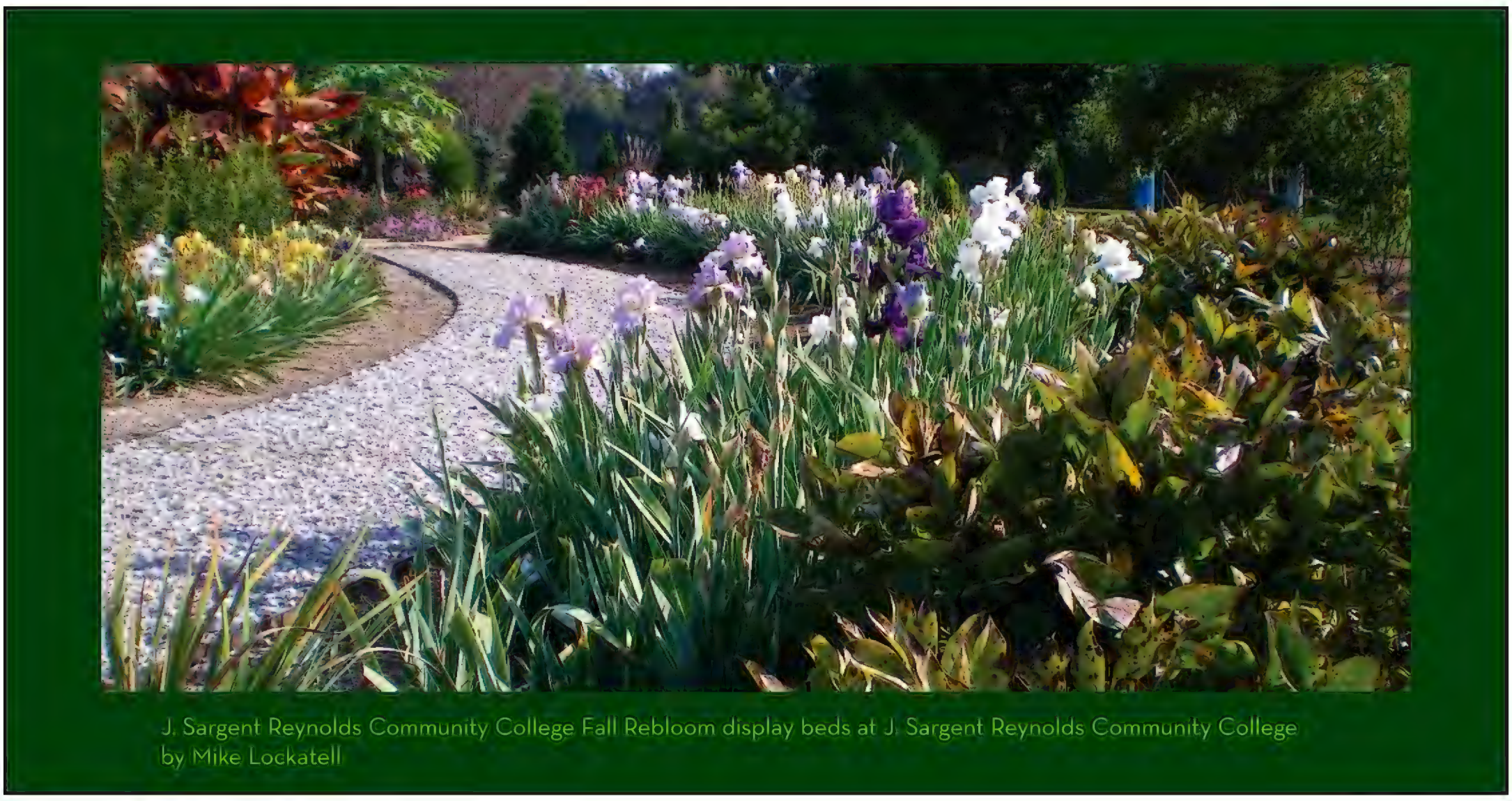
Ed. note: The Spring 2004 issue of The Reblooming Iris Society Recorder *features articles by Mike Lockatell,"Rebloom Shines at the Region 4 Fall Meeting" and Thomas Silvers, "Rebloom's Alpine Connection."*



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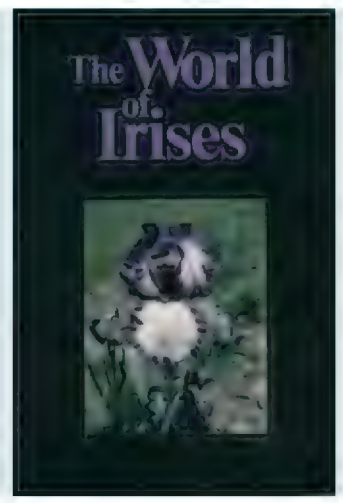

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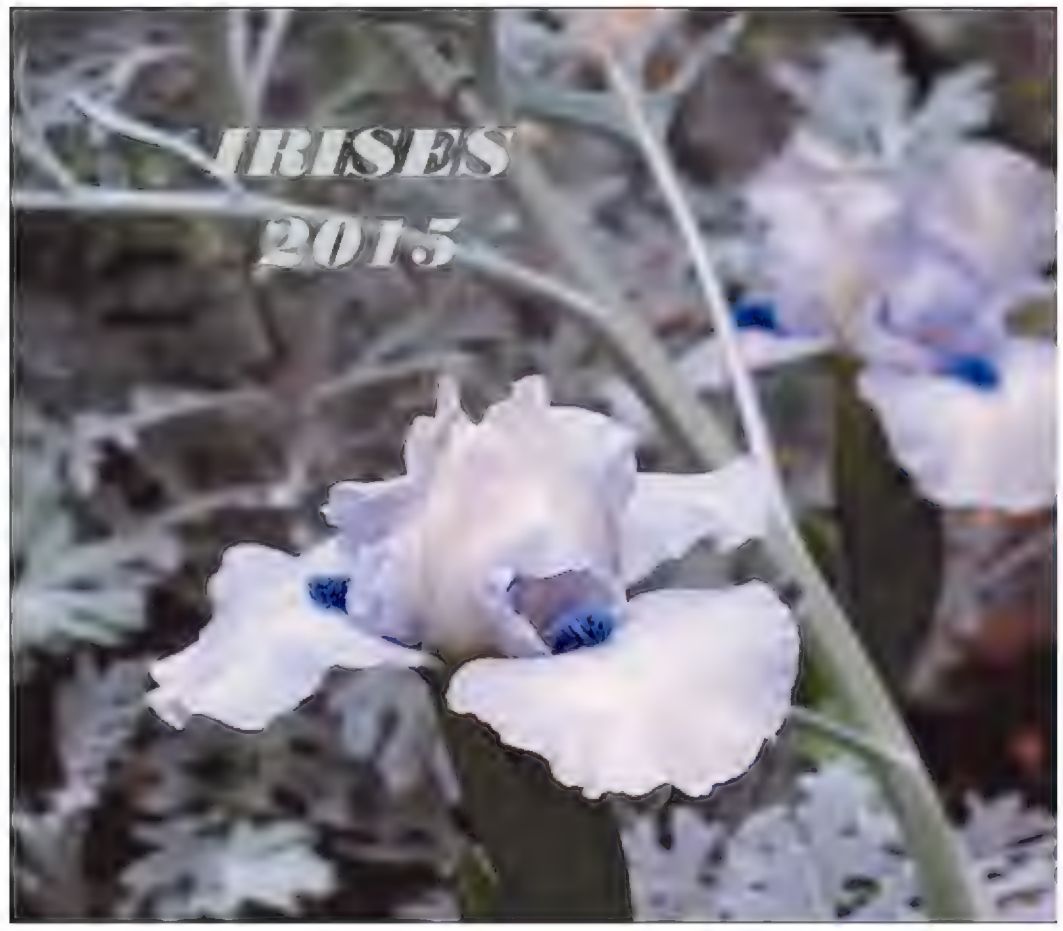

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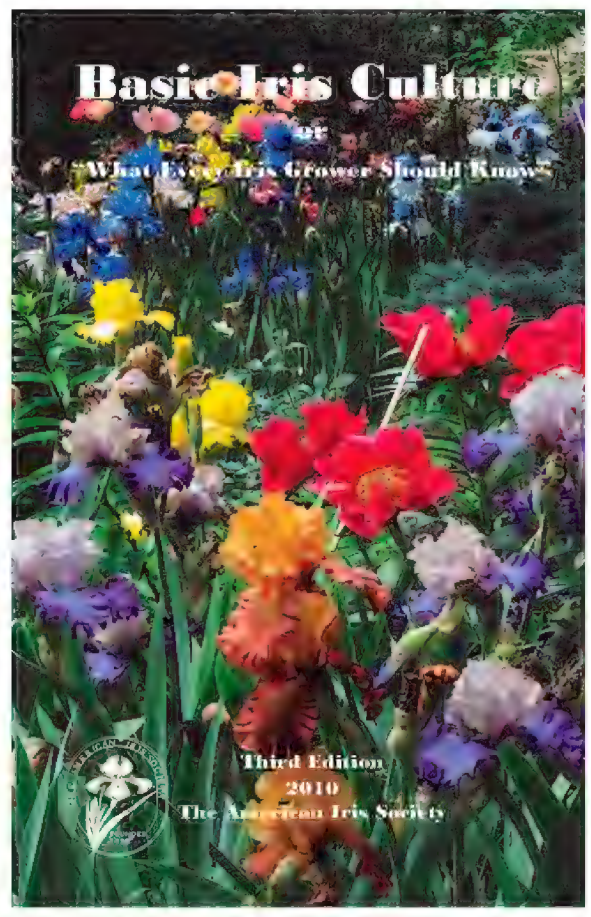

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Send digital ad copy to the editor <aiseditor@irises.org>. Send payment (payable to AIS) to Ron Killingsworth, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060; 318-996-9969; <retmiagt@gmail.com>

Shopping Section Advertising

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues.
All ads, color or black and white are same cost.

2" ad ..... 2.25" w x 2" h $60.00
3" ad ..... 2.25" w x 3" h $80.00

Display Advertising

Color:

1/8 page, interior page..... 3.65"w x 2.5"h $50.00
¼ page, interior page..... 3.65"w x 4.875"h $100.00
½ page, horizontal, interior page.. 7.5"w x 4.875"h $200.00
½ page vertical, interior page ..... 3.65"w x 9.875"h $200.00
Full page, interior page..... 8.5"w x 11"h $400.00
4 consecutive issue discount
½ page interior page..... $175.00 each
full page interior..... $350.00 each

Color Cover:

½ page inside front or ½ page inside back cover..... $300.00
Full page inside front or inside back cover..... $600.00
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3/4 page outside back cover..... 8.5"w x 9"h $600.00

Discount for ad placed in 2 issues within same year

Take out any size and location display advertisement in any issue of IRISES for the normal price as listed and run that same size advertisement in any issue within the same year for ½ the price of the original advertisement. (The second advertisement within the same year is ½ price—it does not have to be the same advertisement.)

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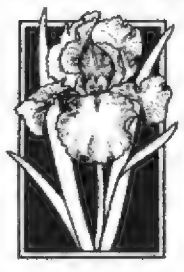

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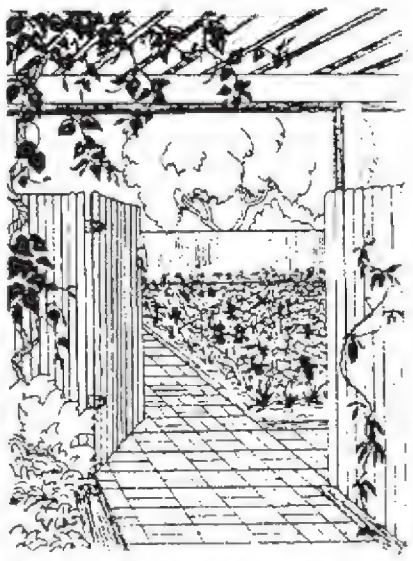

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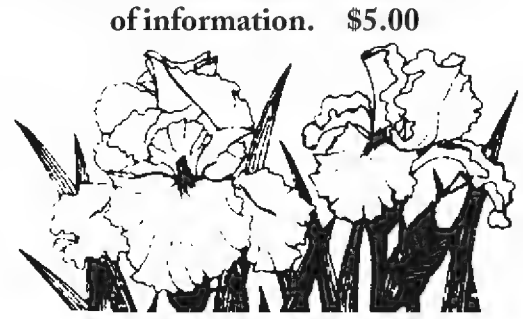

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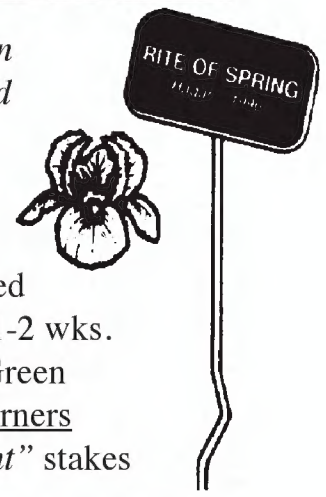

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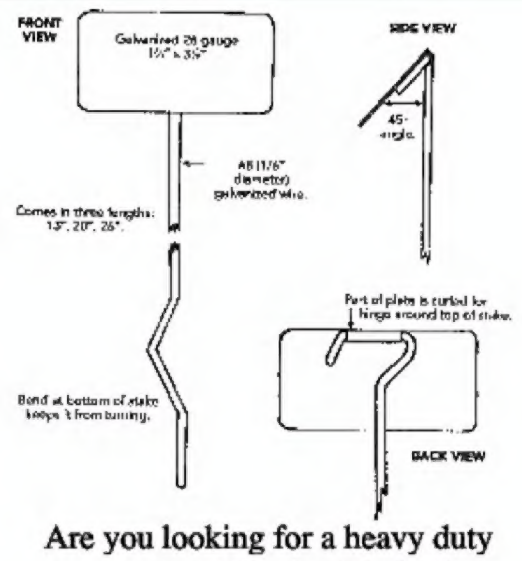

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'Feliciana Hills' (O'connor 1992)
by Zydeco Iris

'Vanity' (Hager 1975) by JLauritzen

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503-668-9230; <kludi@juno.com>

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503-283-4466; www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

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Co-Chair: George Boyce <glenara@aol.com>

2017: MAY 22-26 DES MOINES, IOWA

Chair: Kelly Norris <kellydn@frontiernet.net>

Co-Chair: Gary White <in2iris@yahoo.com>

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Chair: Paul W. Gossett

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918-853-6204; <pwgossett@juno.com>

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2015: NOV 6 - 7, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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2016: Nov 4-5, Sedona, Arizona

Chair: Michelle Snyder

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